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TORONTO • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 200 metronews.ca

Sports pg 17

Hockey or hoops?

Cockfighting ring busted

CRIME Even to a hard-boiled police officer with 25 years under the belt, the scene on Valentine's Day was revolting.

Dead roosters cut to shreds with scalpel-sharp spurs and tossed into a firepit, the result of what police are calling a modern-day incarnation of the eons-old blood sport of cockfighting, this time in the rural town of East Gwillimbury, where 70 people were arrested.

"It's absolutely disgusting," said York Region Det.-Sgt. Dieter Boeheim.

"I've seen a lot of bad, graphic scenes, and this one ranks right up there among them."

The couple who lived in the house, Danilo and Deanna Patawaran, aged 52 and 46, were charged with organizing the event, keeping a cockpit, cruelty to animals and keeping a betting house.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? For the next six weeks, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Food

What local eatery will leave you feeling full and your wallet not feeling empty — it's Meals for a Steal, pg 28

• Beauty

A look at the bright side of a recession-addled New York Fashion Week, pg 30

• Tomorrow

How independent businesses are trying to attract new customers

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anjali Helferty carries a cutout of U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday in Ottawa. The cutout will be used for people to take posed pictures with "President Obama" at an event. Obama is in Ottawa today for his first visit as U.S. president. More coverage, pgs 3, 8, 15

Northern exposure

Obama-mania hits Ottawa for first visit as U.S. president

An enthusiastic but slightly reserved vibe amid intense security preparations and blowing snow — call it Obama-mania, Canadian style.

Obama T-shirts, Obama specialty coffee beans and even an Obama burger heralded the new U.S. president's imminent arrival as well-wishers planned rallies and police raised barricades yesterday in an expectant Ottawa.

It wasn't exactly a carnival atmosphere.

A winter storm and a massive police operation for Barack Obama's six-hour visit today, his first foreign stop as the new U.S. president, helped mute the buzz.

That, and the fact that he was not expected to make a public appearance outside of a tightly orchestrated news conference on Parliament Hill.

Police were still expecting thousands of supporters to line the streets along Obama's most likely motorcade route.

Obama's**Visit**

University of Ottawa student Rexy Rolle said a little snow and extra security won't keep her away.

"Obama is such an inspiration to people around the world, and for him to come to Canada is exciting for us because we followed his race as if we were Americans."

Rachel Decoste says she'll be out to show her support, regardless.

She volunteered on Obama's campaign for a year, making long-distance phone calls from Ottawa and door-knocking in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

"He's been able to be bipartisan and include people from the right and left wing in his administration, and include so many women.

"To me, that is the biggest gift he has given us: Hope and that standard of inclusiveness that works."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
York Lanes (York University)
2187 Queen St. E (The Beach)
2501 Yonge St. (at Castlefield)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
155 - 720 King St. W
5015 Yonge St.
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway

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Milton Crossroads Centre

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(Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
26 - 55 Mountainash Rd.
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

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Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
6535B Mississauga Rd.
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G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
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9301 Bathurst St.

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Promenade Mall
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8117 Yonge St.

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Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
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A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

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TTC to increase parking lot security
The TTC will spend about $400,000 this year to beef up security in its 30 commuter parking lots. A pilot project will see marked cars, uniformed and plain-clothes guards patrolling the parking lots starting April 1, the same time the TTC begins charging Metropass holders for parking. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Charges laid in massive silver theft

Police have charged five people in a multimillion-dollar theft of silver bars in northwest Toronto. Investigators say 150 of the bars, worth a total of $2 million US, were stolen sometime between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Between Jan. 20 and Feb. 6, officers executed four search warrants and recovered all but one of the missing bars. A spokesman declined to identify the suspects, nor would he say where the silver was stolen from.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INDEX

Canada Pg 8
World Pg 12
Comment Pg 15
Business Pg 16
Sports Pg 17
2009 Auto Show Pg 18
Metro Homes Pg 19
Food Pg 28
Style Pg 30
Entertainment Pg 33
TV Listings Pg 36
Celebrity Buzz Pg 37
Take Five Pg 38

Tomorrow's Metro

Movies
Metro reveals its picks on who deserves to take home Oscar.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Obama-mania washes over Ottawa and Michael Ignatieff is upset over restrictions placed on his meeting with the president at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries
Lotteries
Lottery results were not available at press time.

News in brief

CHILD PORN Initially investigated for allegedly pointing a camera at a child in a washroom in Mexico, a 36-year-old Burlington man has now been charged with possession of child pornography. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teaching racism on campus?

A medical textbook that calls black people's hair thick and kinky and Asian hair smooth and silky exemplifies Eurocentric teaching materials at Ontario's colleges and universities, a forum exploring campus racism heard yesterday.

Such textbooks are woefully inadequate when it comes to teaching how to care for visible minority patients, nursing student Liana Salvador, 24, told the panel as it launched provincewide hearings into the topic.

"They use white as the reference point and everyone else is pigeonholed or extra," said Salvador, a student at Ryerson University, who cited an example from one textbook that discusses hair type

Committees need to be struck that have broad representation, including students, when it comes to the selection of teaching materials for post-secondary programs, Salvador told the panel.

The forum at George Brown College was the first of several the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students will be holding across the province before the end of April.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Racism

- The concept was born from another task force that, two years ago, examined the needs of Muslim students. Federation representative Hildah Otieno said incidents of Islamaphobia were identified at campuses across the province, but so too were incidents of other racism.

Building a case for Toronto's Pan Am bid

GAMES Though the venues for Toronto's 2015 Pan Am Games bid might be dotted throughout the Golden Horseshoe, organizers believe transportation for the event can be managed through enhanced transit and dedicated traffic lanes.

"The perfect bid would all be in one spot, all close together," bid chair David Peterson told reporters yesterday as the venue choices were formally unveiled. "It doesn't happen. There's never been a bid like that in the world."

He argued the $1.4-billion proposal, which splits the venues between Toronto — including the athletes' village and a new $170-million training facility and aquatic centre — with the GTA and beyond, is practical because it uses many existing facilities.

If Toronto beats out Bogota, Colombia, and Lima, Peru, when the 42-member Pan American Sports Organization votes in November, many of the competitions in the July 10-26 event would be centred around downtown Toronto, especially Exhibition Place. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's Pan Am bid chair David Peterson addresses the media yesterday on issues of funding.

Create joint auto sector policy: Dalton

Obama's Visit

POLITICS Ontario wants Prime Minister Stephen Harper to use U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to press for Canada's share of auto sector jobs and to find out what the Americans hope to accomplish with a review of border policies, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"Our economies, particularly in the Great Lakes states, are highly integrated, and we've got to find a way to address both security concerns and trade concerns," McGuinty said.

Policy

- McGuinty said he'd like to see the two countries develop policies together.

Ontario's Liberal government plans to introduce a Green Energy Act that it hopes will create 50,000 jobs and help in the fight against climate change, and pushing Obama for a North American system to cap greenhouse gas emissions is another priority for McGuinty.

"We have a real interest in pursuing a continental cap-and-trade system, something that places a hard cap on emissions," he said.

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Canada

Durham approves property tax hike

Durham Region council has approved an operating budget that will result in a 2.2 per cent increase in property taxes, equivalent to $47 on an average home assessed at $289,400. The budget includes provisions for 26 new police officers, 12 new paramedics and 13 new buses. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Auto giants to look for more

General Motors and Chrysler are expected to request more aid money when they release their Canadian turnaround plans, and Ontario will do everything it can to meet those demands, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday

"We know that there are going to be more asks involved," said McGuinty. "We know that we're going to have to do more to help support the sector."

The struggling automakers are now asking the U.S. for a staggering $39 billion in government loans and are cutting 50,000 jobs in an effort to turn operations around.

When Canada announced $4 billion in emergency aid in December, both McGuinty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper indicated there would be a second phase that focused on the long-term viability of the automakers.

The companies are making a second round of Canadian demands tomorrow — and some estimate that means taxpayers will be on the hook for billions more.

Ontario will have to wait and see what's in the Canadian plans, McGuinty said, but acknowledged his government will have to do more for the auto sector.

McGuinty called the apparent survival of Canadian jobs so far "relatively good news" but added the auto industry remains unstable and more restructuring can be expected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 12

Restructuring

- On Tuesday, the companies presented their restructuring plans to Washington, which included General Motors cutting 47,000 jobs globally and shutting down five more factories and rival Chrysler paring 3,000 jobs as well as production.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MP Olivia Chow speaks at Toronto's budget hearing yesterday. The budget is to be finalized by city council March 31 and April 1, with several public meetings planned before that.

Having their say on city budget

POLITICS More than 80 speakers representing the arts, business, labour, cultural organizations, cyclists, social service agencies and other interests got their chance to show their support for or opposition to Toronto's proposed $8.7-billion operating budget at city hall yesterday.

The budget is to be finalized by city council March 31 and April 1, with several public meetings planned before that. Here are some highlights:

- Toronto Board of Trade president and CEO Carol Wilding urged council to fashion a multi-year budget to improve long-term planning.
- While police and ambulance services have been allowed to increase their staff since amalgamation in 1998, Toronto Fire Services has seven fewer firefighters than it did then, Scott Marks, president of the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association, pointed out.
- Keegan Henry-Mathieu, of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, asked the city to "reconsider spending $1 million on planting 57,000 trees in a city that, according to Statistics Canada, has more green space than any municipality in the country," and redirect some of that funding to their projects.
- Cameron Bailey, co-director Toronto International Film Festival, chose to simply remind council that the cultural sector is an economic engine that drives prosperity in the city.
- The land transfer tax was an often-mentioned topic.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Church denies abuse of its charity status

REGULATOR The leaders of an evangelical church stripped of its charity licence this week deny they went on a spending spree at donors' expense.

Pastor Peter and Peggy Rigo apologized yesterday for shoddy bookkeeping they say led to federal auditors concluding that they had used church money to pay for trips to Hawaii and elsewhere; Gucci and Dolce & Gabbana fashion products; and personal expenses including gym memberships.

In a statement, the leaders of the Dominion Christian Centre in Hamilton say they will improve record keeping and will try to be reinstated as a charity. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Audit

- On Tuesday, the federal charity regulator, part of the Canada Revenue Agency, revoked the church's charitable licence and released a scathing audit criticizing the group for misuse of money.

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Man charged with defrauding employer of $700K

Police have arrested an Ajax man they say defrauded his employer of almost $700,000. Terrence Guy Williams, 38, is charged with breach of trust and two counts of fraud over $5,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty ignores calls for Caledonia inquiry

Calls for a public inquiry into a southern Ontario aboriginal occupation were quashed by Premier Dalton McGuinty yesterday as the contentious land dispute neared its third anniversary with no end in sight.

Even though Ontario taxpayers are footing much of the bill to police the dispute in Caledonia, it's up to Ottawa to resolve the outstanding land claims at the heart of the conflict, McGuinty said.

"What we will continue to do — to the very best of our ability — is to bring the two sides together, try to keep them together and try to create conditions which lead to the resolution of this matter," he said.

Talks aimed at ending the occupation of the former housing project have resumed, said Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid, who wouldn't speculate on when a resolution might come.

The negotiations — involving both levels of government and sparked by the Caledonia occupation — touch on dozens of claims in Haldimand County. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tensions

- Simmering tensions between homeowners and Six Nations protesters occupying a 40-hectare tract of land on the outskirts of Caledonia have at times erupted into violent clashes.

Auto show **Future driving tips**

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IndyCar driver Danica Patrick chats with 10-year-old Taegen Poles yesterday at the Canadian International Auto Show. Taegen's father Andre looks on. For more auto show coverage, see page 18.

Dozens of jail guards call in sick

SAFETY Reports of dozens of Ontario correctional officers calling in sick at the same facility last weekend have the province's opposition parties concerned for public safety.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union said yesterday it had heard about an outbreak of so-called "blue flu" at the Penetanguishene jail near Barrie, but could not confirm reports that up to 63 workers called in sick.

While pointing out the employees may actually have been ill, OPSEU spokesman Don Ford admitted Ontario's 5,500 guards are fed up after two decades of broken government promises to reduce overcrowding in the province's jails.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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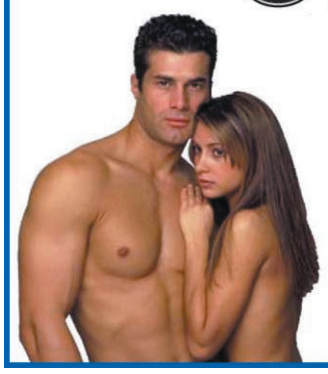

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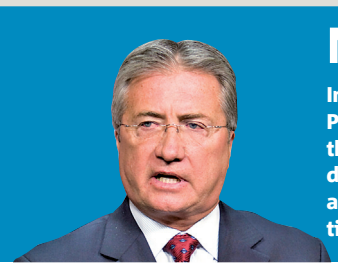
Mayor pleads for help to save dolphins

The mayor of Seal Cove, a small town in western Newfoundland, is pleading with the federal Fisheries Department to send an icebreaker into the community's harbour to rescue five dolphins trapped behind drifting pack ice. Winston May says the dolphins appear to be exhausted and have been stuck for the past four days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



N.L. announces stimulus plan

In an attempt to shield Newfoundland and Labrador from the recession, Premier Danny Williams, left, announced a stimulus package yesterday that will bring total infrastructure spending to $800 million. Faced with droves of workers who have returned to the province looking for work after losing their jobs in Alberta's oilsands, Williams said it was imperative to expedite infrastructure projects. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama expected to address trade concerns: Expert

NAFTA Barack Obama may have once trash-talked free trade, but few are expecting anything so antagonistic during his first visit to his country's closest trading partner.

Rather, the U.S. president's first words on foreign soil today will likely aim to smooth any ruffled feathers over his campaign rhetoric to renegotiate or kill the North American trade pact under which $1.5 billion in goods cross the border each day.

"I think he will want to send a signal to Canadians that we want to make this relationship as strong as possible," says Don Alper, director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. president arrives today

Obama's Visit

The world's most recognizable man is about to make the nation's capital the backdrop of his closely scrutinized life.

U.S. President Barack Obama will stroll through Parliament's Centre Block today, and not since John F. Kennedy visited Canada in 1961 has there been so much enthusiasm around a presidential visit.

Iggy

- Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff wants his meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama today to last at least 20 minutes.

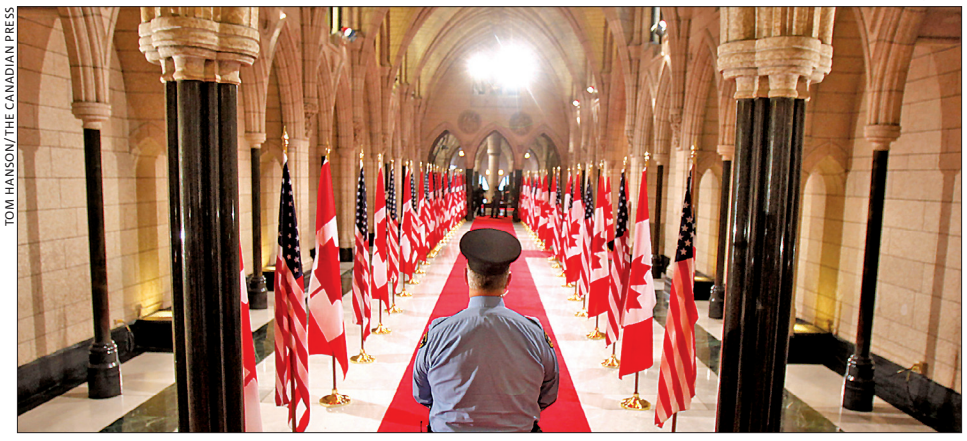
Back then, 50,000 Canadians gathered on Parliament Hill to cheer Kennedy and wife Jackie as they emerged from a limousine. Obama's visit will lack the pageantry and the fun: No public appearances, no address to Parliament, no trees to be planted or school kids to pat on the head.

Obama will instead be shuttled between inner offices and the airport, spending only about six hours in town.

But there's no denying the sense of anticipation around Obama's visit. It is his first foreign foray since the inauguration, happening smack in the middle of his critical campaign to kick-start the American economy. Everything Obama says and does is closely parsed in the midst of the global recession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



A House of Commons security guard stands guard at the end of the Hall of Honour yesterday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The city is preparing for a visit by U.S. President Barack Obama today.

Green policies to change relationship with U.S.: Experts

ENERGY U.S. President Barack Obama's decidedly greener approach to energy policy means Canada's relationship with its southern neighbour is in for big changes, experts said ahead of the commander-in-chief's Canadian visit.

Canada produced about 2.75 million barrels of oil per day last year. The U.S. imported just under two million barrels of oil a day from Canada in December.

News in brief

POLL Four per cent of Canadians think Canada-U.S. relations are in for a rough patch in the next couple of years, according to a new poll, while three-quarters predict good or excellent relations. The survey taps into what a pollster calls the "overlay of an Obama halo."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Warning issues for food products

A health warning has been issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for products that may be contaminated with the Listeria bacteria. The warning is regarding egg salads manufactured by Plaisirs Gastronomique Inc. and included in some Ziggy brand egg salad sandwiches. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Torture hearings planned

The actions of federal officials, police and security agents linked to the torture of four Arab-Canadian men in Syria will come under scrutiny at parliamentary committee hearings.

The Commons public safety and national security committee plans at least three sessions to probe the government response to two commissions of inquiry into the disturbing cases.

"We want to bring these reports out, look at them thoroughly, hear witnesses who are experts on these issues, and bring whatever issues that are lingering to light," said Jack Harris, NDP public safety critic.

Last October, former Supreme Court judge Frank Iacobucci found Canadian officials contributed to the mistreatment of Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin by sharing information — including unsubstantiated and highly provocative descriptions of their activities — with foreign intelligence and police agencies. Iacobucci singled out the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Foreign Affairs Department for mistakes but didn't point a finger at any individuals.

Justice Dennis O'Connor called for policy changes on information sharing and monitoring of security investigations. He also urged an overhaul of the RCMP watchdog commission and stricter review of five other agencies involved in national security. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reform

- The case comes two years after nearly two dozen reform recommendations were presented by another federal inquiry into the ordeal of Maher Arar, another Arab-Canadian tortured in a grave-like Damascus cell.

Charest condemns threats

HISTORY Quebec Premier Jean Charest says the fiery debate that triggered the cancellation of a re-enactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham has tarnished the province's reputation.

Charest is condemning the threats of violence that punctuated the war of words surrounding the controversial plan to restage the bloody 1759 conflict between British and French forces.

Sovereigntist groups claimed victory Tuesday after the National Battlefields Commission announced the re-enactment would not be held on the original battleground in Quebec City.

Jean Charest

Charest is accusing the Parti Quebecois of having links to the sovereigntist groups behind the controversy.

The federalist premier had criticized the summertime event and promised to stay away.

He also says he accepts the commission's decision to abandon it.

Many Quebecers view the battle of the Plains as the end of francophone autonomy in North America and the start of British dominance.

Organizers hope to hold the re-enactment outside Quebec, possibly in Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver takes over 2010 village

OLYMPICS The city of Vancouver now has full control over the athletes village for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

City officials say they've bought out the building loan for the project in order to better control costs.

The buyout cost the city $319.5 million, on top of the $400-million worth of construction remaining on the village.

The city will now act as the banker on the $1-billion project.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alberta to curb water usage by oilsands operations
After years of study, Alberta's energy regulator is taking action to reduce the huge volumes of water used by oilsands processing operations. The aim is to save 35 million cubic metres of water over the next decade, an improvement of about 15 per cent over the current water usage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ethnic test slammed

N.B. education head 'appalled'

New Brunswick's education minister says he is "appalled" by a social studies exercise that asked children in an elementary school to pick among three ethnic and two language groups as possible survivors in a planetary explosion.

A teacher at the Ecole Mont-Carmel in the village of Ste-Marie-de-Kent recently gave the Grade 4 students a sheet that asked them to imagine an Acadian francophone was on another planet with an anglophone, a black African, a Chinese person, and an aboriginal person.

The students were told the planet was going to explode in 10 minutes, and were asked which three of the five people should take a seat in a rocket that would escape the explosion.

A spokeswoman for the Education Department says the mother of one of the students complained to the school's principal, saying her daughter — who CBC reported is adopted from Ethiopia — was upset by having to make the choice.

Education Minister Kelly Lamrock, who is a former teacher, said the exercise isn't suitable and recommended it be taken out of the classroom.

"I've seen the exercise," he said in an interview. "I'm quite appalled at it. It's obviously unacceptable." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tolerance

- Gerald Richard, director of the district school board, said he believes the teacher intended to give a message of racial tolerance.

RCMP **Final salute**

NOEL CHENIER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP officers salute the hearses carrying their colleague, Const. Jason Porter, and his two children, Jack, 2, and Hannah, 5, yesterday from the funeral service at the Main Street Baptist Church in Saint John, N.B. All three were killed in a highway collision Sunday night.

Latest Vancouver shooting victim ID'd

Vancouver police have identified a man shot dead in the city's latest gun fatality — the 12th shooting in two weeks.

Twenty-four-year-old Shane Messent died Tuesday after an altercation at a residence in southeast Vancouver.

Police spokesman Const. Lindsey Houghton says investigators believe the incident was sparked by an attempted home invasion.

He said Messent was known to police, though Houghton didn't disclose if the man had any gang affiliations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rules for waste water welcomed

SEWAGE Environmentalists are welcoming an agreement that sets Canada's first national treatment standards for waste water from cities and towns.

But they warn it will allow some municipalities to keep pouring insufficiently treated sewage into rivers and oceans for at least a decade.

"We're very worried that the strategy and the forthcoming regulation will allow polluters to continue to pollute for one to two decades when the U.S. and Europe have come up to these standards a long time ago," said David Lane of the Vancouver-based T. Buck Suzuki Foundation, which focuses on ocean and fisheries protection. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Systems

- The agreement affects 3,500 municipal waste-water systems across the country that drain directly into water bodies.

Little Mermaid to be a part of Shangai's World Exhibition

The Little Mermaid will leave Denmark for the first time in its nearly 100-year history. The city of Copenhagen decided yesterday to send the landmark statue to next year's World Exhibition in Shanghai. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Brown calls for IMF boost

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, left, has called for countries to boost the International Monetary Fund and renounce protectionism ahead of April's G-20 summit. Brown has released a plan for the meeting that calls for "immediate action to substantially increase the IMF's resources" and the creation of an early warning system to prevent future financial turmoil. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UAW deal cuts raises, bonuses

The United Auto Workers' deal with Detroit's three automakers limits overtime, cuts lump-sum cash bonuses and gets rid of cost-of-living pay raises to help reduce the companies' labour costs, people briefed on the agreement said yesterday.

The UAW announced late Tuesday that it reached the tentative deal with General Motors Corp., Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co. over contract concessions, as GM and Chrysler sent plans to the Treasury Department asking for a total of $39 billion US in government financing to help them survive.

Concessions with the union are a condition of the $17.4 billion in government loans the automakers have received so far.

In Canada, the Canadian Auto Workers will soon begin negotiations with GM, Ford and Chrysler on opening up current CAW contracts, which already freeze wages until 2011.

Union president Ken Lewenza said the CAW will do what it can to stay cost competitive with its U.S. counterpart, but added there's not much left to cut. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada spared?

- General Motors and Chrysler have released U.S. restructuring plans that include 50,000 layoffs, but analysts say their Canadian operations could emerge relatively unscathed.

Egypt **Husband's release**

BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamila Nour, centre, wife of former Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nour, is congratulated by friends after her husband's release yesterday from prison. Nour was convicted in December 2005 on forgery charges his supporters say were trumped up.

News in brief

VATICAN Pope Benedict XVI has told U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi that Catholic politicians must protect life "at all stages of its development", an expression often used by the Pope in opposition to abortion. Pelosi is a Catholic who supports abortion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama unveils $75B plan to halt home foreclosures

PHOENIX U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled an ambitious $75-billion plan yesterday to keep nine million Americans from losing homes to foreclosure.

Announcing the plan in Arizona — a state especially hard hit by the housing crunch — Obama said that turning around the economy requires stemming the continuing tide of foreclosures. The housing crisis that began last year set other factors in motion and fuelled the current recession.

Of the nearly 52 million U.S. homeowners with a mortgage, about 13.8 million, or nearly 27 per cent, owe more on their mortgage than their home is now worth, according to Moody's Economy.com. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian envoys held hostage

ALGERIA Al-Qaida's North African branch claimed yesterday it is holding two missing Canadian diplomats hostage. The diplomats, UN envoy Robert Fowler and his aide Louis Guay, went missing in the West African country of Niger last month.

Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa, known by the French acronym AQMI, also said it is holding four western tourists hostage.

The group did not issue demands for their release, but has in the past obtained ransoms for western tourists kidnapped in the vast Sahara Desert region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Holder to visit Guantanamo
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder will visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, next week to examine the detention facility. U.S. President Barack Obama has given Holder the job of leading the administration's efforts to shut down the site within a year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Twisted and extreme'

Afghan sense of safety down: Canadian Brig.-Gen.

The sense of security among people in Kandahar province has "absolutely plummeted," the outgoing commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan said yesterday in a summary of his nine months on the ground.

Public opinion surveys by the Canadian military suggest confidence is gone in the face of what Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson described as a "twisted and extreme" insurgency that thinks nothing of "brainwashing" a 12-year-old into becoming a suicide bomber.

"It should come as no surprise to any here that these past nine months have not been sufficient to win the war," Thompson said in his farewell statement.

Over the last nine months, the Taliban attacked a prison with a truck bomb, setting free nearly 900 inmates, and bombed the Afghan National Police headquarters, killing eight officers. Last May, Canadian soldiers also faced a 12-year-old suicide bomber and last fall 15 Afghan school girls had acid spewed in their faces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Media **Chimp cartoon draws ire**

NEW YORK POST / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This cartoon appeared in the New York Post's Page Six yesterday. The cartoon, which the Post says mocks President Barack Obama's efforts to revive the economy, refers to a chimp shot to death Monday by police in Connecticut and has drawn fire from media websites. The paper says it stands by the cartoon.

News in brief

BRITAIN A judge discharged the jury yesterday in the case of a group of British Muslims accused of plotting to blow up transatlantic passenger jets in mid-air, citing legal reasons. Flights bound for Toronto and Montreal were among those allegedly targeted. Eight men, aged between 22 and 30, are on trial in London. All deny conspiracy to murder. The case is likely to resume this week with a new jury. The foiling of the alleged plot led to chaos around the world, as hundreds of flights were grounded. It also triggered a ban on carrying liquids on planes that persists to this day. THE ASSOCIATED

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L-R: Giuseppe Penone. *Cedro di Versailles*, 2002-2003 © 2008 Giuseppe Penone. Peter Paul Rubens, *The Massacre of the Innocents*. The Thomson Collection © 2009 Art Gallery of Ontario.

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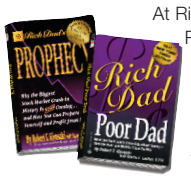
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Robert Kiyosaki will not attend this workshop.

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Peruvian woman bullfighter dies at 86

Conchita Cintron, a Peruvian woman famous for her bullfighting skills on foot and on horseback, has died, a news agency said. Cintron, who reportedly killed more than 750 bulls during her career, died of a heart attack at the age of 86 in Lisbon on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

About-face for Facebook

In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use — its governing document — a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.' Tens of thousands of users said the new terms grant the site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users that this is not the case. And yesterday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook's response

- Founder Mark Zuckerberg said "the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."
- Facebook said it "doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content."

Spain **Right to strike**

PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court civil servants protest yesterday outside the Plaza de Castilla courthouse in Madrid, as both civil servants and judges across Spain staged a strike to protest poor staffing levels and a lack of facilities and infrastructure. The stoppage has sparked a debate whether judges have a right to strike.

AIDS top killer disease in China

CHINA AIDS was the top killer among infectious diseases in China for the first time last year, with 6,897 people dying in the nine months through September, the Xinhua news agency said.

Though the report, citing the Ministry of Health, did not explain the jump, a possible factor is the government's improved reporting of HIV/AIDS statistics in recent years as it slowly acknowledged the presence of the disease.

The number of confirmed HIV infections also nearly doubled to 264,302 from 135,630 in 2005, the report said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen kill Pakistani reporter

PAKISTAN Gunmen killed a Pakistani television reporter yesterday, hours after he covered a peace march aimed at convincing militants in the Swat Valley to lay down their weapons under a pact with the government, the victim's employer said.

It was unclear who shot Musa Khan Khel, but the incident shows that Swat remains a dangerous place. Geo television, Pakistan's most popular news channel, reported that its reporter Khel's bullet-ridden body was found close to the town of Matta. It gave no more details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Comment & Views

Comment

Obligation not celebration

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

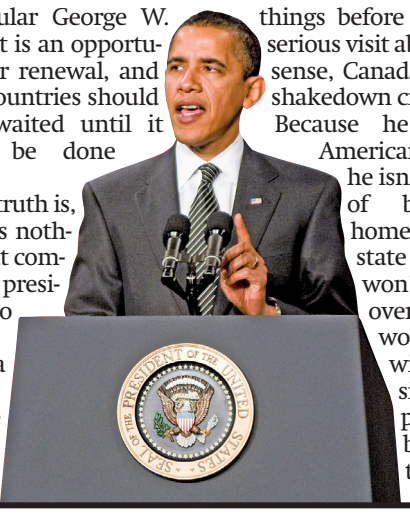
Barack Obama comes to Ottawa today, and you have to wonder why. He will see nothing of the capital and the capital will see nothing of him.

This supernova will be little more than a flash across our northern sky. His visit is as perfunctory as a campaign stop. The tone and timing is more about domestic politics and presidential logistics than bilateral relations.

Why leave Washington at all? For all that he and Stephen Harper are doing in public today, they could have talked over a webcam. Or a BlackBerry.

The answer is this visit is more obligation than celebration. The U.S. president thinks he should make his first foreign trip to Canada, which isn't necessarily the tradition, but is still something we should honour and appreciate.

Sadly, the visit isn't a celebration of a successful relationship between peoples who are more alike than any two on earth. After the unpopular George W. Bush, it is an opportunity for renewal, and both countries should have waited until it could be done right.



The truth is, there is nothing that compels a president to visit Canada today, in the midst of an economic crisis. When Americans think of Canada, there is "no fierce urgency of now."

Simply put, Obama is coming to Canada because it is convenient. It allows him to say that he came here to meet his counterpart, exchange pleasantries, do some business and fly home for supper.

It also allows his inexperienced White House to test things before he makes a serious visit abroad. In that sense, Canada is Obama's shakedown cruise.

Because he frets that Americans will think he isn't taking care of business at home, this isn't a state visit. He won't stay overnight. He won't bring his wife. He won't sip champagne at a banquet with the Governor General (who, desperate to see him, will appear at the airport).

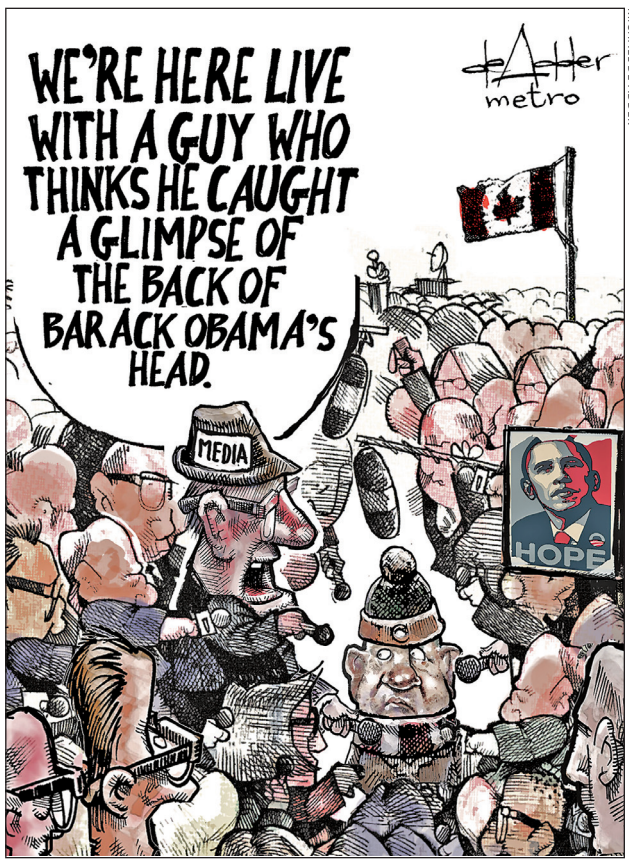
Most important, the U.S. president won't address Parliament. He wants his first major speech to be to Congress later this month.

For his part, Harper knows that Obama is much more popular than he is. He knows the U.S. president will challenge him on the environment. And he worries Obama could emerge as a third force in Canadian politics, aligning himself with the opposition here.

So, a lightning visit by a phantom president discharging a diplomatic duty suits Prime Minister Harper as much as it does President Obama. Canadians are the losers.

Obama's**Visit**

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Canada: A cult with fetish for the past

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & media consultant

The National Battlefields Commission has cancelled the 250th re-enactment of the Battle of the Plain of Abraham scheduled for this coming August.

I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

First, I didn't know some of the few taxpayer dollars I have left go to something called the National Battlefields Commission, and have, apparently, since 1908.

Second, call me crazy, but is it a good idea to rub salt in what is still a raw wound in the body politic of what was New France? It would be like the good people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan re-enacting the hanging of Louis Riel. Feelings are still a little raw in this young nation of ours — or, if you prefer — in these young nations of ours. We're not ready to make nice, I guess.

It's hard to tell who's the real villain here: Les Idiots at the commission who thought it would be swell to have a masked ball and other frivolity to commemorate the defeat of the French and the deaths of opposing generals Wolfe and Montcalm.

Then there's the Réseau de Résistance du Québec, a group of fierce separatists who promised to kick some ass if the re-enactment took place.

Fearing a more authentic replay of the battle than it bargained for, the commission whipped out the white flag it keeps on hand for such occasions and "je me souviens" quickly became "fuhgeddaboudit."

"Feelings are still a little raw in this young nation of ours ... We're not ready to make nice, I guess."

Someone pointed out there was a similar enactment 10 years ago under the Parti Quebecois and nobody complained. I guess it's OK to re-stage your own defeat, but it hurts when les maudits Tories try it.

Moi, I think they should indeed re-enact the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, but I think they should hold it at night, because much of what happens in Canada involving the Two Solitudes reminds me of these lines from the great Matthew Arnold poem Dover Beach, one of the saddest in any official language:

"Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night."

One day, perhaps in another 250 years, we'll be able to put it all behind us, and build a Canada that is no longer a cult with a fetish for the past.

Now that would be worth celebrating.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting, and editor-in-chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.

Letters

Don't forget OLG's reason for being

It seems to me that, with all of this lambasting of the OLG going on, people have forgotten the main reason for there even being an OLG.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming has contributed billions of dollars over its 30 years of existence to numerous charities — Federated Health, United Way — the list goes on.

No one seems to remember this fact because the media are too busy concentrating on degrading the OLG in the eyes of the public and, let's face it, public opinion is directly swayed by and related to media coverage.

Please, let's at least give credit where credit is due.

There's nothing wrong with, occasionally, printing some good news.

LINDA MCTAGGART, TORONTO

Cancer society applauds smoke-free car legislation

Second-hand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals and close to 70 of those chemicals are known or suspected to cause cancer.

No level of second-hand smoke is safe. Second-hand smoke exposure is related to sudden infant death syndrome and respiratory heath problems.

The risk of asthma and ear infection in children is greater when they are exposed to second-hand smoke.

The Canadian Cancer Society applauds Ontario's new smoke-free vehicle legislation, as it is a measure that will protect children from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

The legislation, which came into effect Jan. 21, prohibits smoking in vehicles when a person who is younger than 16 years of age is present in the vehicle.

While we support this new law, the Society believes the best way to protect children's health is to help parents and caregivers quit smoking. We can help.

Support is available through the Canadian Cancer Society smokers helpline at 1-877-513-5333 and smokershelpline.ca.

NANCY KORSTANJE, CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY SMOKERS HELPLINE

ShareYourViews

torontoletters@metronews.ca

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Goodyear cutting 5,000 jobs
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., the biggest U.S. tire maker, said yesterday the global economic slowdown will force it to cut nearly 5,000 jobs this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Loblaw sees $188M profit

Loblaw Cos. Ltd. is "continuing to edge forward" in a multi-year restructuring, ringing up a fourth-quarter profit of $188 million, rising from $40 million a year ago as sales increased 11 per cent, largely because of calendar effects.

Canada's biggest supermarket operator, recovering from a troubled revamp of its distribution facilities, said yesterday its full-year profit grew 65 per cent to $545 million, or $1.99 per share, on sales of $30.8 billion. This compared with 2007 net income of $330 million, $1.20 per share, on sales of $29.38 billion.

The profit in the 13 weeks ended Jan. 3 was worth 69 cents per share, up from 14 cents per share a year earlier. The latest quarter benefited from $47 million in one-time gains, versus $88 million in non-recurring charges in the year-ago period.

Quarterly sales rose to $7.75 billion from $6.97 billion. There was one more selling week in the most recent quarter, which boosted the top line by 7.9 per cent, and there was a further 0.8 per cent sales benefit from the shift of the Thanksgiving holiday into the fourth quarter.

While acknowledging the solid results, chairman Galen Weston added: "We need to build more consistency into our execution," and "given the unpredictable economy and tough competitive environment, we are prepared for a challenging 2009."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tough year ahead

- Loblaw's 2009 earnings will be hit as the company adds $100 million to its investments in information technology and the supply chain, according to Allan Leighton, president and deputy chairman.

Transcontinental cuts 1,500 jobs in N. America

LAYOFFS Transcontinental Inc. is cutting 1,500 jobs, about 10 per cent of its workforce, across its North American operations and reducing costs to address the economic slide.

The Montreal-based printer and media company says the rapid deterioration of the economy has reduced spending by its customers, with commercial printing projects, direct mail projects and magazine ad placements cancelled or postponed by companies hit by the recession.

Transcontinental said it has also frozen hiring and will introduce unpaid leave and reduced work weeks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Savings

- The cost-cutting measures are expected to save the company about $75 million a year.

In brief

EARNINGS Rogers Communications Inc. says the slowing economy put a damper on advertising sales at its television operations, contributing to a $138-million loss in the fourth quarter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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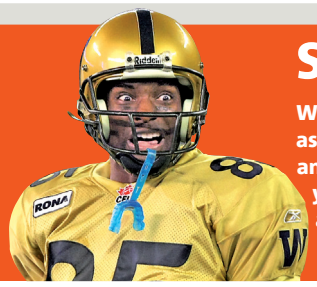
APOTEX
ADVANCING GENERICS

Report: Griffey to return to Seattle

Ken Griffey Jr. has apparently decided to return to the Seattle Mariners. Reports last night say the deal came after an agreement with the Atlanta Braves fell through. Griffey enjoyed the best years of his career in Seattle, from 1989-99. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Stegall hangs up spikes

Winnipeg Blue Bombers receiver Milt Stegall, left, retired yesterday as the CFL's all-time leader for touchdowns (147), TD receptions (144) and career receiving yards (15,153). Stegall, who spent his entire 14-year career with the Bombers, also holds CFL records for most TDs in a season (23 in 2002). The 39-year-old will join TSN as an analyst.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Hoops and pucks

John Chick

john.chick@metronews.ca

One leader is an African-American christened by many as a charismatic force for change who plans to turn the White House bowling alley into a basketball court. The other is an Anglo-Canadian maligned by many for stiffness who has been talking about writing a book on hockey history for at least three years.

So let's put aside dealing with the minutia of the worst economic crisis of our lifetime and talk about what Barack Obama and Stephen Harper will likely touch on at some point today — sports — specifically, hockey and basketball.

Sure, one's a Democrat and the other a Conservative, but will they have anything in common sportswise?

It's hard not to find two sports more vastly different than hockey and basketball. Even though NHL and NBA seasons mirror each other and teams from each league share 10 arenas across North America, the culture of the sports differ greatly.

Hardwood vs. ice. Flair vs. grit. At last count, the NHL was 96.6 per cent Caucasian, while the NBA was 77 per cent black. Just ask certain Maple Leafs fans what they think about the Raptors sometime.

Yet, why does each sport suffer popularity issues in the other country?

In the U.S., the answer is clearer. South of the Mason-Dixon line, hockey has no relevance, mostly because of the absence of ice. It may not have stopped Gary Bettman and the NHL from expanding ad nauseam into the sun/bible/non-hockey belt, but most kids outside New England, Michigan and Minnesota don't grow up playing it and therefore lack connection to it.

The same can't be said in Canada. It would be impossible to find a school in the country without at least two basketball nets, and an aimless drive through suburbia would find rims and backboards on a large number of driveways.

Yet outside a handful of communities, the game takes a back seat to hockey and paltry TV ratings outside Toronto and other areas help drive the Canadian media's hyperbolic obsession with pucks.

"People can relate to the average hockey player because the athletes come as much from small-town Canada than any large urban centre," says Robert Schinke, associate professor at Laurentian University and co-author of the book Cultural Sport Psychology.

The USA's Olympic hockey win over the USSR in 1980 consistently ranks as one of the greatest sporting moments in American history. Plus, it likely paved the way for cinematic masterpieces like Rocky IV.

Meanwhile, at the 1983 World University Games in Edmonton, the Canadian men's basketball team stunned a U.S. squad featuring Charles Barkley and Karl Malone en route to a gold medal. Unlike the Miracle on Ice stateside, it's barely remembered in Canada, and today, the first five hits of a Google search for "Canada USA basketball 1983" brings up nothing related to the actual event.

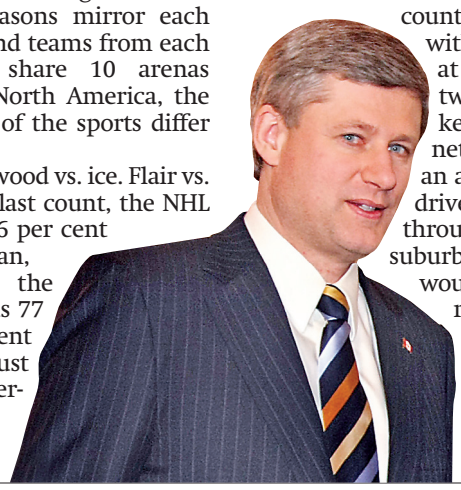
But the process of getting basketball back to respectability in Canada is hopefully changing.

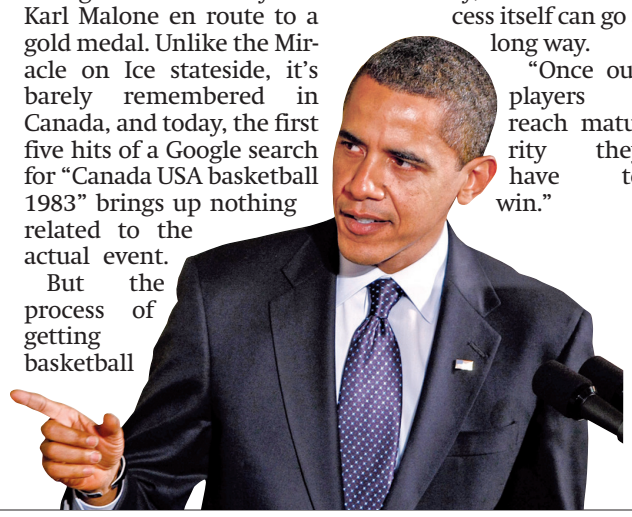
"We've taken steps in the right direction," says Toronto Raptors broadcaster and former national team player Sherman Hamilton.

"Nothing's perfect yet because the product's not finished ... but I think it's really started at the grassroots level."

Like many others, Hamilton concedes there needs to be a bigger financial commitment from both governments and the business community, and then success itself can go a long way.

"Once our players reach maturity they have to win."





Obama's Visit

B-ball upsides

- Shaquille O'Neal
- Hops, dunks
- Nicknames that don't simply add a 'y' or 'er' to the end of a player's surname

Even money

- Head-to-head, Stephen Harper probably spells H-O-R-S-E faster than you can say Afghanistan. But despite lacking a signature move such as the Shawinigan Handshake, Harper likely gets Barack Obama back in road hockey with a blazing wrist shot.

Hockey upsides

- Alex Ovechkin
- Can usually expect every player to bust their butt
- Stanley Cup much nicer than Larry O'Brien trophy

Raptors Outclassed by Cavs

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shawn Marion is guarded by Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Anderson Varejao last night. The Raps lost 93-76, with LeBron James coming up just short of a triple-double and Jay Triano ejected in the fourth quarter. Chris Bosh sat out his fifth game in a row with a sprained right knee. For a full recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.

UFC 97 to go ahead

The sold-out UFC 97 will go ahead as planned in Montreal on April 18.

Quebec's boxing commission agreed yesterday to grant a licence to stage the mixed martial arts show, a day after meeting with UFC officials to iron out interpretations of provincial rules governing combat sports.

"During this meeting, the board was assured by the promoter that the safety of the participants would be assured and that rules governing combat sports will be respected," the commission said in a statement.

UFC president Dana White said this week that UFC 97 sold out faster than UFC 83, which was held at the Bell Centre last year, and that he was determined to return to Montreal.

This time, the show was cast into doubt when the Quebec commission, which has changed its leadership in recent months, raised concerns that the UFC did not conform to its rules, particularly in regard to knee and elbow strikes, judo-style throws and the size of the cage.

But a source told The Canadian Press that UFC 97 will be conducted under the same rules as the show last April. UFC 83 drew a sellout of 20,011 fans — a record for the UFC and mixed martial arts in North America. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Times and venue
The Canadian International Auto Show runs at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and Rogers Centre till Sunday, Feb. 22. Show hours are 10:30 a.m to 10 p.m. daily and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 22. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

2009 Auto Show

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

A little Maya, a little ZENN

GTA firms show way to greener future through exhibit

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Fitting right in line with the 2009 Canadian International Auto Show's The New Era mission statement, one of the most interesting exhibits is the GTA in Motion: The Future is Electric display, which aims to educate both the media and consumers on all sorts of alternatives to traditional transportation.

"Every year, the auto show puts together an area that speaks to the future of the automobile industry," said CIAS marketing services specialist Jaime Lea Foss. "One of the elements was to be able to showcase both pure-electric and hybrid vehicles. We have speakers able to discuss where and how electric cars are going to be a part of today's 'green' focus."

Foss assembled Canadian leaders in the battery electric vehicle market, while also challenging Humber College design students to create their own visions of transport solutions for the coming century.

The result is a fantastic mix of displays and booths all with the goal of educating the consumer about non-internal-combustion options. The top 12 student designs run the perimeter of the 1,000 sq-m exhibit, and an overall winner will be chosen after the CIAS runs its course later this month.

MARK ATKINSON/FOR METRO CANADA

Mississauga-based Electrovaya's Maya-300, a low and medium-speed electric vehicle, is part of the Canadian International Auto Show's GTA in Motion display.

Foss said that having designs shown at the CIAS was wonderful because it would, "Get the consumer starting to talk about the need for these vehicles to be on the road."

Perhaps the most promising vehicle on display comes from Mississauga-based Electrovaya, a world leader in lithium-ion batteries — the same kind used in cellphones, MP3 players and laptop computers. The company is featuring its brand-new Maya-300 low and medium-speed electric vehicle.

Gitanjali DasGupta, Electrovaya's director of electric vehicles, said that the company is currently researching a range of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles for all applications through its Clean Transportation division, including a partnership with Purolator to replace the old, smoggy delivery vehicles with a zero-emission version.

"(The Maya-300) is designed as an urban vehicle, for city driving, commuting, fleet use. It's perfect if you need a car to drop the kids to school, or pick up groceries."
Electrovaya's Gitanjali DasGupta

Meanwhile, the Maya-300 has the best chance of changing public perception because it resembles a modern five-door hatchback, similar to what's sold in any regular dealership.

"It's designed as an urban vehicle, for city driving, commuting, fleet use," DasGupta said.

"I'd love to see these kinds of cars driven by parking enforcement officers (because) internal combustion engines are terribly inefficient in stop-and-go driving."

The main challenge facing Electrovaya are the current regulations in most of Canada outlawing low-speed electric vehicles on public roads.

Only Quebec is running a test program to give some hand-picked companies such as Electrovaya a shot at Canadian success by allowing them onto streets with speed limits of 60 km/h or lower. And while DasGupta feels that the Maya-300 would easily be able to qualify under Quebec's regulations, Electrovaya sees the United States' vehicle market as a more important nut to crack for now.

"It's perfect if you need a car to drop the kids to school, or pick up groceries, or if you don't want to buy your kid an old jalopy, especially since you don't want them on the highway," she said.

On display

ELECTROVAYA MAYA-300
- The latest in low-speed transportation courtesy of a Mississauga-based battery maker. Doesn't look like an electric vehicle, and can be equipped with power windows, air conditioning and rear airbags.

ZENN
- Toronto-based ZENN (Zero Emissions No Noise) features its two-seat urban runabout.

Lexus unveils luxury hybrid

DEBUT The new Toyota Prius may have taken all the limelight when it debuted at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto last week but the Japanese automaker also had something for its fans of luxury hybrids.

Toyota Canada Inc. also unveiled the 2010 Lexus HS 250h, calling it the world's first dedicated luxury hybrid gasoline-electric vehicle.

The all-new HS 250h includes a sophisticated exhaust recovery system that increases fuel efficiency and reduces engine warm-up time.

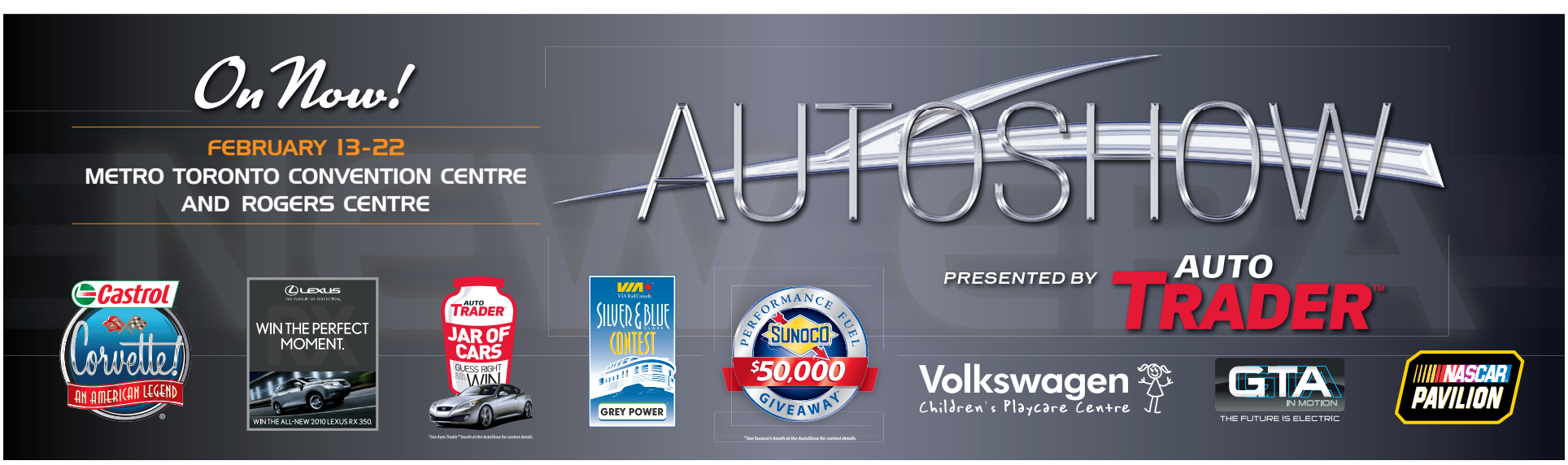
It also introduces the "cockpit of the future" with interior Eco Plastics that reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent over the vehicle's lifecycle.

The 250h goes on sale across Canada this summer.

"Six in ten people shopping for an entry luxury model have told Lexus that they would like a hybrid option. Only Lexus can offer this kind of advanced technology experience in a no-compromise luxury vehicle," said Stephen Beatty, managing director of Toyota Canada.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Read Metro's continued coverage of the Canadian International Auto Show at metronews.ca/automotive



A new way to mix or blend things up when there isn't a blender in sight
The Blender Bottle is perfect for protein shakes, pancake mix, eggs, salad dressings, etc. Just drop the steel wire whisk BlenderBall into the cup, screw on the top and shake it until your ingredients are completely mixed. Check it out at dormbuys.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Homes

Dorm storage
A leftover pizza box can take up tons of room in the refrigerator. Now there's a functional new way to store the remaining slices. The two slice Pizzapartment conveniently holds the leftover pizza. See dormbuys.com METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The Gramercy Park's model suite at Wilson Avenue and Tippet Road is a designer's love letter to Manhattan.

N.Y. magic in Toronto

Suite Talk

VANESSA GRECO
for Metro Canada

Beyond the rich espresso tones and enlarged damask patterns, Gramercy Park's model suite is a designer's love letter to Manhattan.

David Hendricks just spent a weekend in New York City, staying at the famed Gramercy Park hotel, when he began as senior interior designer at Guidelines. That fateful trip would collide with his first project — a suite for Malibu Investment Inc.'s Manhattan-inspired condominium on Wilson Ave. and Tippet Rd.

"The original Gramercy Park hotel became my inspiration," said Hendricks. "The suite brings the moody city feel of New York in the wintertime to Toronto."

Throughout the two-bedroom unit, a neutral colour palette of light blues and taupe is dramatically offset by dark maple furniture. The theme is carried into the living room, where shadowy photos of horizons hang opposite a beige ultra-suede sofa.

Mimicking the original Gramercy Park's off-the-cuff style, Hendricks paired classic design with modern elements. Although a pale brown rug in the living area features a traditional damask pattern, the design has been enlarged.

"We were trying to create a luxurious feeling," said Hendricks, who described his style as contemporary with a nod to the traditional.

To accommodate an older demographic, the design moves beyond aesthetics.

"Empty nesters bring a lot of stuff with them," said Hendricks. "They'll move from a bigger place but won't get rid of a dozen sentimental items."

Four espresso-stained benches line a wall in the den. Topped with silk cushions, the average visitor might never suspect they're storage units, perfect for hiding extra linen or dishes. As well, full extension drawers are also featured in the office and den. Gramercy Park suites range from 500 to more than 1,100 square feet and cost between $169,990 and $399,990.

National Homes Show gets a dose of stardom

TRACEY TONG
for Metro Canada

Ty Pennington is a big believer in the do-it-yourself movement.

The outspoken host of the hit ABC show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition — who adds official spokesman for the National Home Show in Toronto to his resumé later this week — thinks that the recession will only serve to make DIY more popular.

"Houses in general and way people look at them will change," Pennington told Metro. "With things being tighter than they used to be, people are focusing more on what's really important."

While people were looking at houses as investments before, "it's about making it your nest" now, he said.

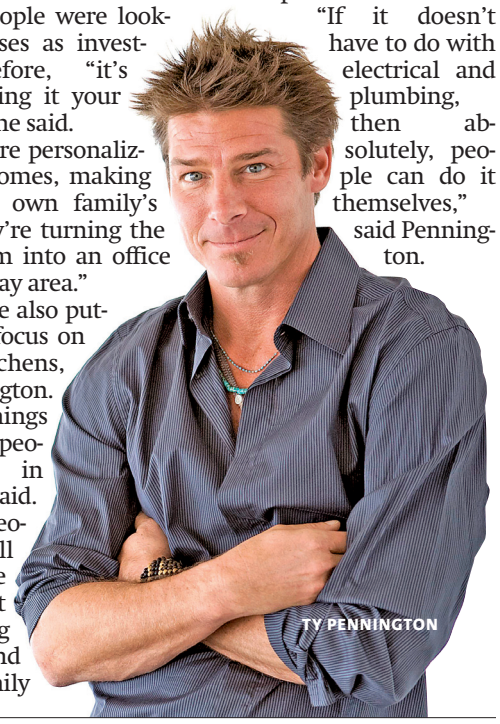
"People are personalizing their homes, making it fit their own family's needs. They're turning the dining room into an office or a kid's play area."

People are also putting more focus on their kitchens, said Pennington.

"When things get tight, people eat in more," he said. "I think people will spend more time at home fixing dinners and having family over."

While he's sure people will be inspired by different things at the show, Pennington — who authored home improvement guide Ty's Tricks: Home Repair Secrets Plus Cheap and Easy Projects to Transform Any Room — said there are things everyone can do, and things that should be left to the pros.

"If it doesn't have to do with electrical and plumbing, then absolutely, people can do it themselves," said Pennington.



TY PENNINGTON

If you go...

- The National Home Show runs at the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place from Feb. 20-March 1. Admission is $15 for adults and $11 for seniors and youth, with an additional $3 discount online.

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SPRING 2009 OCCUPANCY

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The Rouge	13502	2,200	~~$328,990~~	$309,990	$19,000
SEMIS	**LOT#**	**SQ. FT.**	**PREV. PRICE**	**PRICE NOW**	**SAVINGS**
The Malvern	22L	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$397,990	$23,700
The Malvern	22R	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$397,990	$23,700
The Malvern	24R	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$397,990	$23,700
The Malvern	26L	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$397,990	$23,700
The Malvern	27L	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$390,990	$30,700
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Decor

Read more in the March issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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Book pick

Applying the classic look to a small space

HOME LIBRARY The Apartment Book: Smart Decorating for Spaces Large and Small by Carol Spier, $24, Hearst, 2007, softcover, 272 pages.

I'm not big on modern design and find that many books about small spaces tend to feature modern, spare interiors. Here, House Beautiful takes the classic look I love and applies it to smaller areas. The icing on the cake is the special section at the end of each chapter that offers easy solutions for many common decorating problems, like 12 tricks to make your space look larger.

— LAUREN FLANAGAN

New season

Colourful coir puts spring underfoot

HOME & STYLE Perk up your front porch with a pretty coir mat that celebrates spring's return. Tag Onion Grass 18" X 30" mat $25, Candym Enterprises, 800-263-3551.

HOME & STYLE Keyboard crumbs are a thing of the past with this wonderfully wee hand vac that charges directly from a computer's USB port. KWIK 3.8 V. utility vacuum $33 US, Dirt Devil, 800-321-1134; dirtdevil.com.

— BRETT WALTHER

PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

ROBIN STUBBERT

Great expectations

Designing a small kitchen calls for just as much careful planning as a big one

More than any other room in the house, the kitchen involves planning detail after detail, from major items like appliances to small but prominent finishes, like the colour of tile grout. Small kitchens take as much planning, as well as ideas for maximizing space. Here are a few inspired by a kitchen reno by Style at Home's Editor-in-Chief Gail Johnston Habs and her husband:

- French doors are lovely, but bifold and sliding patio doors eat up less space.
- Panelled dishwashers and fridges virtually disappear.
- If a corner sink allows for unbroken counterspace, consider it.
- Take cabinetry up to the ceiling for more storage and to visually heighten a space.
- Keep the overall colour palette the same; colour changes stop the eye.
- Continue flooring from adjacent rooms into the kitchen for an uninterrupted flow.
- Maintain a similar style of decorative lighting, such as hanging lanterns, used in nearby rooms.
- Choose window hardware that blends in; we used white latches that fold back when not in use.
- Build in appliances whenever possible.
- Utilize the "false" drawers in front of sinks or even cooktops by installing tilt-down hinged trays for hidden storage.
- Do your homework: many Euro-style manufacturers make appliances in smaller sizes than average North American standards.

— GAIL JOHNSTON HABS

High/low **Sleep tight with one of these small-space sofabeds**

A small living space is no excuse for not having out-of-town guests. Here are some multifunctional sleep surfaces that will fit both your space and your style constraints. – JENN HOULIHAN

Cooper lounge with double bed in Pincord Seafoam $1,699, DeBoer's, deboers.com.

Twilight Sleep Sofa twin/queen $1,800, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Beddinge Håvet double sofabed in Sandvik Green $549, Ikea, ikea.ca.

Porto steel twin daybed and trundle, $699, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Staycation style: Accessories bring home the look of a renowned resort

Above, Caribbean Elegance by Michael Connors, $48 (Abrams, 2002). Left, Round Hill Hotel & Villas, Montego Bay, Jamaica, roundhilljamaica.com

Influence Bamboo Hibiscus perfumed 7 oz. candle $32, Fruits & Passion, fruits-passion.com.

Aina cushion cover in Dark Blue $10, Fjadrar cushion inserts $5 each, Ikea. Striped pillow cotton-021973 fabric $12/yard, Designer Fabrics, designerfabrics.ca.

Pink pashmina $12, Ardene, ardene.com.

Pot $13, Tap Phong Trading Company, 416-977-6364. Orchids $17 each, Ikea.

PRODUCED BY MARGOT AUSTIN; WRITTEN BY BRETT WALTHER

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The Canyon	4303	A	2,094	4	~~$366,990~~	$339,990	$27,000
The Canyon	4403	A	2,094	4	~~$366,990~~	$349,990	$17,000
The Seascape	4304	A	2,082	4	~~$366,990~~	$339,990	$27,000
The Seascape	4404	A	2,082	4	~~$366,990~~	$349,990	$17,000

SINGLES	LOT#	ELEV	SQ. FT.	BDRM	PREV. PRICE	PRICE NOW	SAVINGS
The Chrysalis	10	A	2,406	4	~~$509,990~~	$479,990	$30,000

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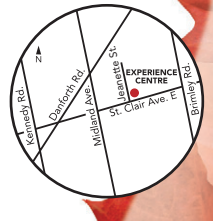

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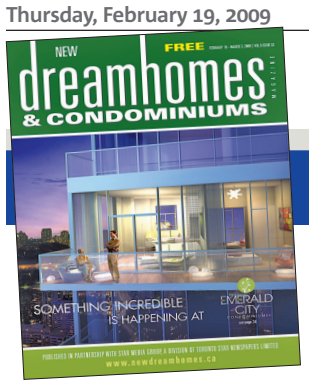

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Do you buy before selling?

In today's market where the majority of people who are actively pursuing real estate are involving themselves on both sides of the coin — the sale of their existing home and the purchase of their new home — the question of what to do first is an important one.

On the one hand you don't want to purchase before selling because you don't want to end up stuck with two mortgages, potentially. On the other hand, what happens if you sell but can't find anything to purchase? While the question is significant and must be taken seriously, rest assured that I have yet to be personally involved in a situation where someone was forced to deal with two mortgages, or ended up without a door to put their key in. If planned intelligently, you can certainly minimize any of those risks to the point where they become virtually non existent.

As a general rule of thumb it's most advisable to sell before purchasing. The prominent idea being that you only have one house to sell — yours — but dozens of houses to choose from on the purchase side. Call it playing the percentages, minimizing your risk, whatever.

The theory does hold true. For the most part I always recommend selling first because the sale of your current home is, quite often, the source of the most uncertainty. However, if you decide to sell first does that mean you do nothing on the purchase side? Absolutely not.

Just as bad as ending up with two mortgages would be realizing that there is nothing suitable to purchase within your budget, after you've already sold your current home. To avoid that pitfall you want to beginning searching for new homes right away, satisfy yourself that there are realistic options out there, so that you know you're not selling without good reason.

Perhaps the most crucial aspect of the entire process is the listing of your existing house/condo. I've said it before and I'll say it again — the most integral point in time of the listing is the first one to two weeks. You will generate the most sincere and qualified interest during this time. Take it from me, no matter how could your reasoning is for the property being on the market three months down the line, there is no way the listing will have as much impact as when it was fresh. So, if the initial ten days or so are most important it makes sense to guarantee yourself the best possible chance of selling within that timeframe.

Everything from the pictures, to the comments on the listing, to the showings, to the follow up process, must be executed without a single error. When I'm speaking with those new to the business and I try to explain the importance of the perfect listing, few realize how important it is. That is of course until two months down the line when they begin wondering why other units in the building, or houses in the neighborhood, have already sold and they wonder why their particular property is without a dance partner.

As important as listing intelligently is, as step one of your sell then buy process, the single most significant factor is how well you price your home. At the end of the day that is what will determine how quickly and headache free you sell.

If you are amongst the many who have taken it upon themselves to take advantage of this buyers market, do yourself a favour and take advantage intelligently, and to the best of your ability. For questions on this article feel free to email Amit at amitp@rogers.com.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

Buy before selling, or sell before buying; it's truly a question of the chicken and the egg, writes our columnist.

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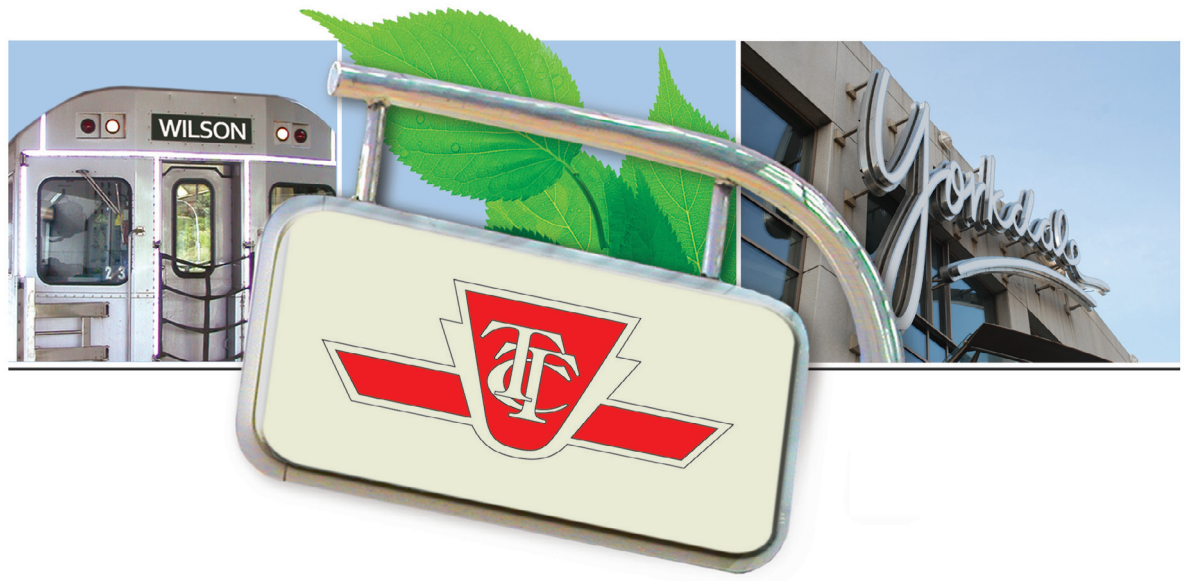

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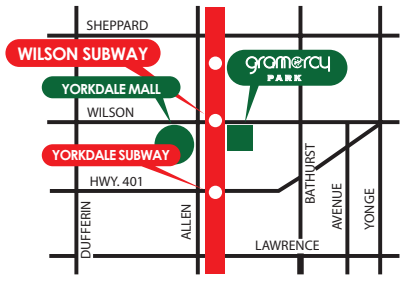

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2009: The year of the reno

HomeScape

Argh! The news at the beginning of the month that Ottawa is now offering a Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) left me feeling as if I'd just missed the last boat to financial salvation.

I was just too late. We finished renovations more or less on my old homestead around fall, 2008, but the tax credit applies only to work performed or goods acquired between Jan. 27, 2009 and Feb. 1, 2010.

I started investigating a little more and found that missing out on the tax credit is perhaps not as devastating as I had initially thought. It's worth 15 per cent to a maximum of $1,350 on a project costing over $1,000 to a maximum of $10,000.

OK, so I'll revise my feeling that I "missed the boat to financial salvation" to the much less dramatic notion that I lost the opportunity to get a few bucks back from the government.

But I'm not one to be ungrateful. If you're doing a reno in the next year, and your project costs around the $10,000 mark, you'll maximize the savings from this particular program, and I'm willing to bet that you'll be a happy camper once the 2009 tax assessments start coming back.

The tax credits apply to "enduring" home improvements, which covers a lot. It can apply to redoing a kitchen, refinishing a basement, installing a new furnace, windows, carpeting, flooring and resurfacing a driveway. The credit does not apply to appliances, furniture or routine maintenance. You can claim the tax credit on a home, cottage or condo unit owned for personal use. And remember that the work has a deadline; it must be complete before Feb. 1, 2010. Go to cra-arc.gc.ca or fin.gc.ca for more information.

Thinking of taking advantage of the new tax credit for home renovations? The kitchen is a great place to start.

But there are other reasons for good cheer when it comes to contemplating doing renos over the next year. There are several federal departments and levels of government that offer programs that could be financially helpful to you if you are an aspiring renovator, especially if you are undertaking improvements that save on energy or water use in your home.

For example, the EcoEnergy Retrofit Homes Program can save you up to $5,000 per household. No, it won't contribute money for granite countertops, but it will reimburse you for projects that involve improving your heating system, ventilation, hot water system, air conditioning, insulation, air sealing, replacing doors, windows or skylights, or conserving water with toilets that use less water, for example.

But don't just launch into it without taking a look at the requirements. You must first hire a qualified energy advisor to perform an energy evaluation of your home, and the eligible improvements (and eventually, the rebates) flow from this. See ecoaction.gc.ca or phone 1-800-622-6232 to apply or get further information.

There are also a series of provincial and municipal programs that offer rebates. The bottom line is that there may be a lot more government help available than you think that can help defray the costs of doing a reno. It's worth checking.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Saving options

There are many ways to save money if you're willing to go green:

- The Ontario Home Energy Savings Program (homeenergyontario.ca), requires you to do a Home Energy Audit to find your home's energy leaks and identify renovations that can lower your energy bills.
- The Ontario Power Authority offers rebates if you are replacing your old central air conditioning or heating systems with Energy Star qualified modals. See powerauthority.on.ca for further information.
- Enbridge Gas Authority (egd.enbridge.com) offers rebates on programmable thermostats ($15), water heater for new customers ($50), and Energy Star Natural Gas Heating system Upgrades ($100).
- The City of Toronto offers rebates for water-efficient toilets and washing machines. Check out toronto.ca.

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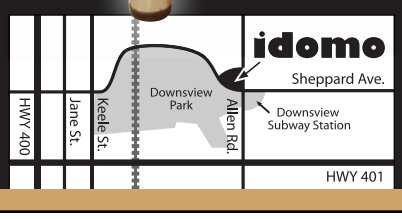

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No future home help from your lawyer?

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q I was at my lawyer's office this week signing the paperwork for my new home and she explained that she was working on behalf of the bank and on my behalf and that if there were any problems in the future with the bank, I would not be able to come to her for legal advice. Something about conflict of interest was mentioned but I didn't really understand what it all meant. Can you explain?

A This is a very good question and extremely important for home buyers to realize the answer. When you are purchasing a home, you are generally doing so with some funds from a financial institution. The bank wants to make sure that their collateral (your house) is secure so they hire your lawyer (whom they don't pay) to give them an opinion as to the title of the property and make sure it is free and clear. Likewise, you are hiring your lawyer to do the same thing. It makes perfect sense that your lawyer should do this function for both you and the bank. Otherwise, you would end up paying for two lawyers (because your bank certainly would pass on the charges) to give you an opinion as to "clear title." However, it is down the line when you decide that your mortgage payments are too high and you can't afford them, or you want to "port" your mortgage to a new property and they agree verbally but charge you anyway (just to mention a couple of situations) when the trouble arises. Of course you go back to your lawyer and she approaches you very delicately and probably very cautiously.

The issue here is that when you initially purchased the home, she acted on both of your behalves thereby setting up a potential for conflict of interest. If either party wanted to bring legal action against the other. The original lawyer who acted on both sides cannot give any legal advice to either with respect to the problem.

This can be quite frustrating if your lawyer is a trusted advisor who has helped you through other legal hurdles such as buying a business or drafting your wills. Her hands will be tied by both sides in this instance and most proactive lawyers should explain this to you when you are paying for and signing your documents for what might be even you first home. A strange but logical outcome of the law?

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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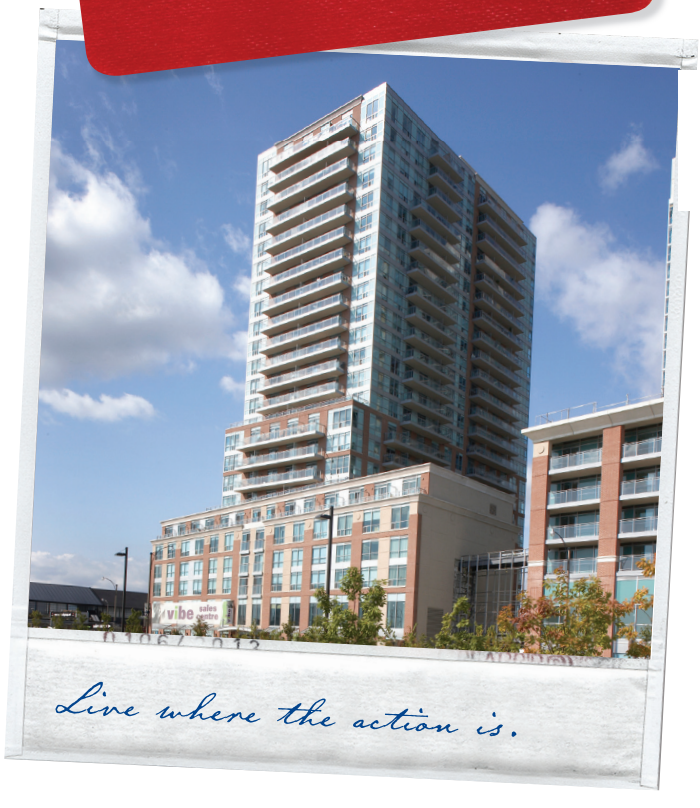

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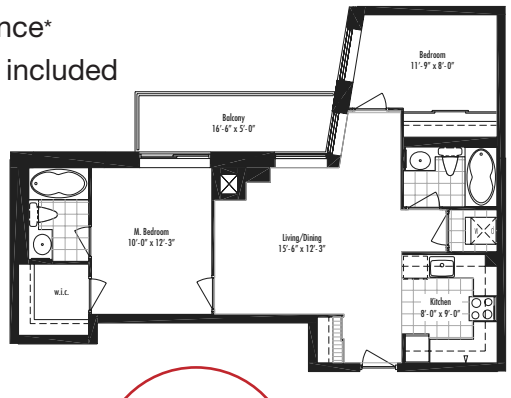

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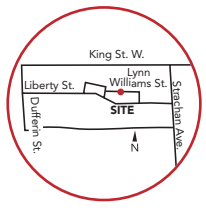

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Salad amalgamation

It's now possible to carry salads to work or school in one easy container — salad dressing included. The Original Salad Blaster is a 28 ounce container for your veggies with a 2 oz lid for your dressing, perfect for the dorm-living student, see dormbuys.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Condo buyer makes his a double

When Mehmet Bagriacik decided to combine two units vertically, he envisioned a two-storey condo that had the feel of a home.

But his plans were turned upside down in more ways than one.

The kitchen, laundry room and second bathroom migrated downstairs in the process — and his girlfriend of seven years recently moved out.

Although he took occupancy a year ago, he's been busy lately changing it up, tweaking it just so, making it more homey with an electric fireplace flanked by bookshelves, lots of light and splashes of colour.

"The idea was to make the place look like one house," he says.

Although he is pleased with the results, he's not sure he'll stay, he said recently during a planned unveiling. The suite, at 1,800 square feet, feels too big for one person, he says. A unit of around 1,200 square feet would suit him fine.

"It's been very stressful," he admits.

Bagriacik runs a company exporting Canadian commodities such as grains and legumes to Dubai, Istanbul and Moscow.

Despite the upheaval in his personal life, he says he got what he wanted with the unit in The Met, a 43-storey building at Carlton and Yonge streets built by Edilcan Development Corp.

"I'm pretty happy," says Bagriacik, now 29. "It met my expectations."

The unit spans the 38th and 39th floors of the high-rise. Dark hardwood floors are a nice complement to walls of mustard, a yellowish ochre and sunny yellow downstairs. He replaced the hardwood in the kitchen with off-white ceramic tiles inlaid with a wide red mosaic stripe and repeated the pattern in the foyer.

Dark laminate disguises the fridge and freezer and fronts the cupboards, which are set off with silvery pulls. The washer and dryer are tucked away off the foyer, hidden behind pocket doors.

There are two bedrooms with walk-in closets and full bathrooms on the main floor.

Any takers?

- Bagriacik estimates his double-decker condo would sell for about $1.15 million in the current market.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Mehmet Bagriacik has bought two condo suites at the Met, a condo development at Yonge and Carleton streets. He combined the two vertically on the 38th and 39th floors.

An oak staircase flanked by silver and black leaf wallpaper leads to the second floor.

Bagriacik says he opened up the living room to be "more useful" and designed a custom wall unit to house the electric fireplace and all of his books. Mauve and taupe walls add personality to the living room, with the leafy wallpaper repeating on one portion of the wall.

The dining room features a large mirror and large windows, showing off spectacular views looking north to the top of the city.

The condo's contemporary look fits his lifestyle — it's cosy, yet a great place to entertain, he says.

Living in the middle of the "concrete jungle" makes him feel part of the city. He admits it's hectic, too, as sirens wail from passing fire trucks.

Bagriacik says he'd advise anyone who is considering buying two units to combine to "know your business. Know your market. It's good to shop around."

That's good advice from a man who arrived in New York as a 15-year-old immigrant with "about 25 cents" in his pocket.

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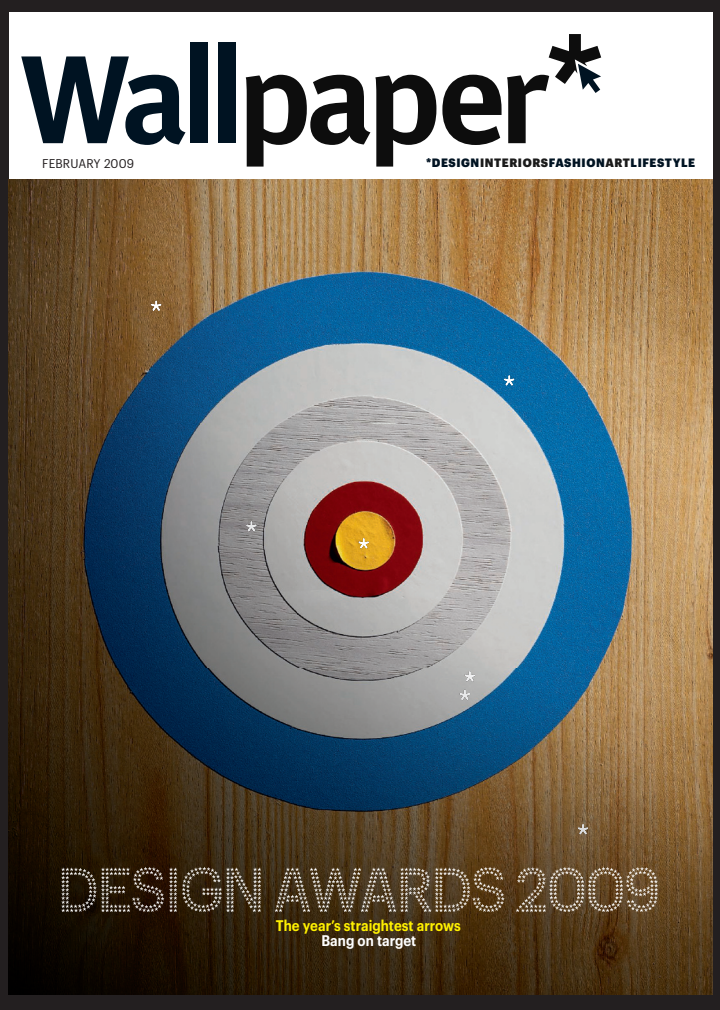

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Look for upbeat yellows and fresh blues this spring

DECOR It's a pretty outlook for spring 2009 on the home decor front. The colour palette includes fresh blues, saucy pinks and upbeat yellows, as well as a veritable laundry line of clean whites. Patterns are playful or romantic. It's the season of renewal, and a great time to fluff up the feathers in the nest.

Louise Smith, colour and design manager for Dulux, points out, "This is the year to go wild and express yourself. Since fewer people will be moving, the onus is on personalization and reinvention."

So if you've never been brave enough to dip your toes in the colour pool, now's the time to get wet. Never been a flower child? You may reconsider when you see the new floral motifs. The mood-enhancing benefits of a re-styled living space cannot be underestimated.

Yellow is such a happy hue, and so right-this-minute. Look for it in dishes, furniture, soft furnishings, even trash bins: Vipp's Yellow Cab stepcan may be made in Copenhagen, but the vibe is totally New York.

Spring in the city is evoked in Blissliving (blisslivinghome.com) Home's contemporary bedding ensemble, Off the Park, which pairs a black and white print with bright yellow. Designer Mei Xu notes the colour's "cheerful, optimistic tone. It has the power to bring a smile to your face."

Conran USA (conranusa.com) continues to support international craftwork with the ceramics of south African designers Philippa and Werner du Toit. Their pitchers and cake stands are embossed with tribal fabric textures, then washed in soft yellow. They're quirky, rustic and charming.

We'll see white as another dominant colour, either crisp and pure or vanilla-tinged. Gather a group of snowy vases, fill them with white blooms, and place on a textured runner. Pull off all the dark drapes and hang white cotton or silk; the light will pour in, awakening everything.

Garnet Hill (garnethill.com) has the Angie lamp, a curvy number in soft tones accented with barrel shades in on-trend motifs like black and white ironwork, white-on-white bubbles, or orange and green zinnias.

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Time is running out to take advantage SENTEX savings

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These are real dollar savings for buyers of the last four homes at SENTEX Homes' Estates of Guildwood Village. At closing, buyers are spared from paying the Ontario land transfer tax, the City of Toronto land transfer tax, the cost of utility hookups, levies and city development charges, as well as the Tarion warranty enrolment fee.

Until Feb. 28, SENTEX Homes will pay the lion's share of closing costs. SENTEX will even credit the purchaser up to $2,000 toward their legal fees! Buyers will only need to pay the rest of their down payment and the remainder of their upgrades cost at closing.

The reason for SENTEX Homes' generosity?

It is SENTEX's contribution to help jumpstart the economy, while creating great value for the homebuyer. It is a well-known fact that new home construction is a major economic booster. It provides jobs and acts as a trigger to release spending in other sectors such as home furnishings, appliances and electronics.

Buyers can still pick from 10 eye-catching models, customize floor layouts at no additional charge, get granite kitchen counters and hardwood floors for the living and dining rooms, hardwood staircases, nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, 200 amp service, and central air conditioning.

Now, the value of a home at the Estates of Guildwood Village has been further enhanced; SENTEX Homes will install a solar thermal system that can provide up to 80 per cent of the domestic hot water needs of a typical family of four. Hot water usage usually accounts for 25 per cent of a household's standard utility bill.

The solar thermal system can help the family save almost $325 per year by supplementing electric hot water heating with solar, and around $200 per year if supplementing gas water heating with solar.

Solar energy, a renewable energy resource, not only reduces your carbon footprint, but also helps to combat pollution and create better air quality. During the promotion period, the solar panels are included in the homes' purchase price. These detached homes range in size from 2,516 to 3,507 square feet and are priced from the high $500,000s.

Why not see it all for yourself by visiting the model home/sales centre at 6 Portia St.? It's open weekends from noon till 5 p.m. Call Marisa Roque at 416-266-5121 for weekday appointments. For more information, visit estatesofguildwood.com.

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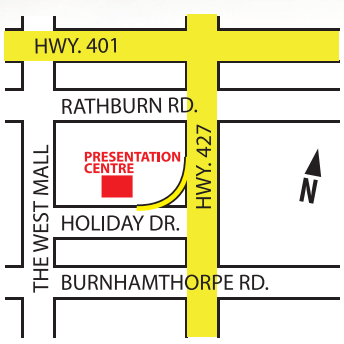

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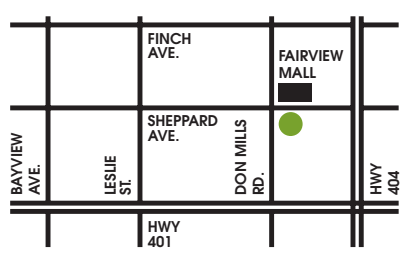

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Fondue for film buffs

Another Wolfgang Puck recipe is a Gouda Fondue served with chunks of ciabatta, baguette and vegetables for a casual affair you can set up on your coffee table in view of the TV. Provide lots of napkins and nibble and dunk without missing any of the action. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Wolfgang Puck made his name in Los Angeles when he opened Spago in 1982. He took pizza to a new level and one of his signature dishes is Smoked Salmon and Caviar Pizza. Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Recipes

Find Puck's recipes for Gouda Fondue and pizza on wolfgangpuck.com/recipes.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

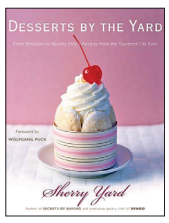
Spoonfuls of Oscar glamour

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Gather your friends together for the upcoming 81st Annual Academy Awards, otherwise known as the Oscars. To dine like the stars, we look to Chef Wolfgang Puck for inspiration. For 15 consecutive years, Puck has catered the official Oscar party.

For dessert, here is a recipe from Desserts by the Yard: From Brooklyn to Beverly Hills: Recipes from the Sweetest Life Ever (Houghton Mifflin, $45) by Wolfgang Puck, Sherry Yard and Martha Rose Shulman. Brooklyn-born Yard worked her way up to reign as Hollywood and Beverly Hills queen of sweet. As Executive Pastry Chef in Puck's Spago empire, she annually creates 1,700 or so perfect desserts for the Governors Ball following the Oscars.



Chocolate Mousse

Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz (250 g) good quality bittersweet chocolate
- 1 /4 cup (60 ml) brewed expresso
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) Grand Marnier liqueur

The 81st Annual **Academy Awards**

- 1 cup (250 ml) whipping (35%) cream
- 2 eggs, separated
- 6 egg whites, at room temperature
- pinch of cream of tartar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sugar
- Whipped cream and chocolate shavings (garnish)

METHOD:

Place chocolate in food processor fitted with knife blade; pulse to chop chocolate very fine.

In a small saucepan, combine espresso, Grand Marnier and 2 tbsp (30 ml) of the cream; bring to a boil. Turn on food processor and add hot liquid with food processor running. Process until chocolate has melted. Scrape down sides. Continue to process until smooth. Add egg yolks and process until blended. Scrape into a large bowl.

Chocolate Mousse.

In bowl of a standing mixer with whisk attachment (or hand held electric mixer), beat all 8 egg whites on medium speed. When they foam, add cream of tartar and continue to beat on medium speed while slowly adding sugar. Beat until they form medium peaks. Gently fold into chocolate base, in 2 additions.

In same mixer, beat remaining cream until it forms soft peaks. Fold into mousse. Spoon mousse into six ramekins or other serving cups and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set. Serve with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Riding the Recession

Meals for a steal

Golden Pizza
1201 Broadview Ave.
416-425-3787
Entrees range from $4.50 (banquet burger) to $14 (Golden Super Deluxe pizza)

This East York gem just north of the corner of Broadview and Cosburn avenues is the cosy home to gourmet pizzas and popular Greek and Italian fare. For top-notch value, check out their daily specials: On Wednesdays, for example, a Pork Souvlaki Dinner costs only $9.95 and boasts mountainous portions, easily enough for a lunch of leftovers the next day. Free delivery in a large portion of East Toronto, call for details for deliveries outside the area.

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Timothy's Presidential Blend No. 44 — inspired by U.S. President Barack Obama — launches nationwide today at Timothy's World Coffee restaurants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Cinema sipping

In these trying times nothing beats my recessionary blues like watching rich people prance around in fancy frocks and jewelry worth more than my house.

They'll be plenty of both at the Oscars this Sunday; and like oodles of other little people around the world I'll be watching with bated breath to see who takes home those coveted golden guys. In honour of the best picture nominees this week I've chosen a liquid inspired by each of their solid performances.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: With New Orleans as a backdrop nothing represents this flick better than the Big Easy's own **Southern Comfort ($24.25 - $25.64)**. It's great on its own, with cola or stirred into a fruit juice-based Hurricane cocktail.

Frost/Nixon: The now famous interviews took place in California's Orange County. Though far from the wine regions, a bottle of the state's **2006 Dancing Bull Zinfandel ($11.95 - $15.96)** seems appropriate considering how Tricky Dick soft-shoed around many of Frost's questions.

Milk: Because it's set in the '70s, and has a fluid name, it seems a no-brainer to go with a White Russian. All you need to make this fern bar favourite is a little **Mexican Kahlúa coffee liqueur ($27.49 - $29.48)**, some fresh moo juice and a few cubes of ice.

The Reader: Holocaust movies are Academy Award magnets and this one just might get Kate Winslet a statuette. She plays a German; so a thirst-quenching six-pack of Deutschland lager — typified by **DAB Original ($10.95 - $11.99)** — would taste wunderbar.

Slumdog Millionaire: If I won 20 million rupees I'd drink French champagne like it was water. The **2000 Dom Pérignon ($215.00 - $248.00)** would be my pick especially since its Hollywood creds date back to Sean Connery's James Bond days. (P.S. My money's on Slumdog to win.)

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

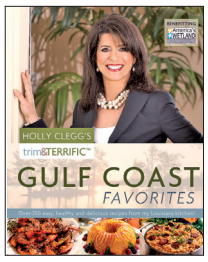
Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

King Cake reigns supreme at Mardi Gras

TRADITION In Louisiana, Mardi Gras is an exquisite celebration packed with fabulous food, fun times, brilliant colours and lots of tradition. But this year, you don't have to be in New Orleans to celebrate Carnival Season (Jan. 6-Feb. 24). With this delicious king cake recipe inspired by best-selling Louisiana cookbook author, Holly Clegg, you can celebrate Fat Tuesday wherever you are.

This sweet, cinnamon bread-like dough is shaped into a big circle, cooked and topped with icing featuring the colours of Mardi Gras: Purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power. A plastic baby, representing the Christ child, is hidden inside. Whoever gets the baby, according to tradition, has to provide the next king cake.



In her new book, Trim&Terrific Gulf Coast Favorites (Holly Clegg Publications, $24.95), Clegg presents this and hundreds of other mouth-watering recipes that celebrate the abundance of fresh seafood and local ingredients that define the cuisine of the Gulf Coast.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

On the web

• For a recipe of King Cake with Cream Cheese Cinnamon Filling by Holly Clegg, visit metronews.ca

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Dupré is the new Lewinsky
Ashley Dupré, the escort involved in the Eliot Spitzer scandal, caused a fracas at New York Fashion Week. She crashed designer Yigal Azrouël's fashion show last Friday and sat in the front row, causing the designer to come apart at the seams in the media. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

Style

From Wu who? to Who's Who

When 26-year-old fashion designer Jason Wu realized last month that he had designed what could become the gown of the century — Michelle Obama's white chiffon inaugural ball gown — he must have known his life could change forever. Now the designer's fall 2009 show, held during New York Fashion Week, was one of the most coveted invitations, right up there with Marc Jacobs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Behind the red carpet glitz

Actress Kate Hudson is one of stylist Brad Goreski's clients.

CHELSEA MIYA
for Metro Canada

It takes months of preparation: Hours of fittings, matching, prodding and primping, all for a brief walk down a camera-lined red carpet.

Awards season is the busiest time of the year for Hollywood stars — and their stylists.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

"Is it crazy? One hundred per cent!" says Canadian-born stylist Brad Goreski. "There are constant problems to fix. There's a lot of excitement... It definitely keeps us on our toes."

Goreski is among the style-conscious regulars on the Bravo series The Rachel Zoe Project. The reality show follows legendary celebrity stylist Rachel Zoe and her assistants — Goreski and Taylor Jocobson — through all the behind-the-scenes chaos, excitement, drama and tears that go into making celebrities look good.

The Zoe camp's star-studded clientele includes Jennifer Garner, Kate Hudson, Debra Messing and Anne Hathaway. Goreski recently began filming the second season of Project Zoe, which will air in late April.

"The craziest thing I've ever had to do was when we got called in to do a fitting with Kate Hudson the day before she had to do a press tour," says Goreski. "I was on a plane 24 hours later with three trunks of clothes. That was five weeks into it," he laughs.

"The craziest thing I've ever had to do was ... a fitting with Kate Hudson the day before she had to do a press tour."
- Stylist Brad Goreski

"I got broken-in really fast," adds Goreski, who grew up in the small town of Port Perry, Ont., a far cry from the glitz and glamour of Hollywood.

"Vogue was the first magazine I ever asked my mom to buy me," says Goreski. "It's in my blood. When I was in school I used to tie scarves around my waist. I was always mixing things up. It all kind of started with Barbie. I tested a lot of things out on her!," he laughs.

Goreski interned at Vogue and W magazine, while studying art history at the University of Southern California. After graduation he landed a job as the West Coast assistant at Vogue.

After that, "it was a series of happy accidents."

He first met Rachel Zoe at a Chanel dinner and spent the next year trying to score a dream job on her styling team. When a spot opened he jumped on it and hasn't looked back since.

"I loved her right away," says Goreski. "She seemed like she would be really fun to work for, and I was right!"

Working close together, on call 24-7, stylists and their teams become a lot like family.

"There's a lot of mean portrayals of assistant boss relationships in the fashion world," says Goreski, "but that's not how it is where I work. Working for Rachel is crazy in a good way. We're also good friends."

10 pluses to a recession-addled Fashion Week

Riding the Recession

1. Nearly all of fashion has slashed its budgets. That means much better people-watching on the subway.
2. Speaking of transportation, your odds of catching a taxicab between shows and parties just shot up too.
3. High fashion labels are still on sale, so you might actually be able to afford a nicer outfit for that party you want to crash.
4. Hour-long waits for a table at scenery restaurants are a drag, we doubt you'll encounter them.
5. Your H&M finds have never been more popular or accepted.
6. You no longer have to feel like the only broke one who can't afford what's coming down the runways.
7. You now have a reason to dust off your Miu Miu bag from three seasons ago.
8. But if you don't have one, no worries. The It bag is dead, remember?
9. Those parties you were too cool to stay at for more than 10 minutes are now your only opportunity to drink top-shelf-liquor cocktails and — sigh — champagne. That is, if you can get in.
10. Undone hair is the new do.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Monique was looking for a healthy way to lose weight and tried Apple Cider 600. She lost 16 pounds in 6 weeks!

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My local pharmacy advised me to take Apple Cider 600, in order to lose fat and retained water. I bought a few boxes and started the diet."

I finally lost weight from my legs!

"Apple Cider 600 worked great. After 6 weeks my weight went from 153 lbs to 137 lbs. And I finally lost weight from my legs – lots of weight! I didn't exercise but I was not snacking and I did drink a lot of water, as recommended.

I highly recommend Apple Cider 600 to anyone who would like to lose weight safely. This product works! I am thrilled with my new body!"

Monique, Quebec City

ARE YOU RETAINING WATER?	YES	NO
My body feels heavy and puffy	■	■
I love especially salty snacks	■	■
My joints feel swollen	■	■
I have cellulite	■	■
My clothes are tight	■	■
I don´t drink enough water	■	■

These are some clues that your body is retaining more than usual amounts of water. Cut your salt intake and try Apple Cider 600 as a solution!

SO HOW CAN APPLE CIDER 600 HELP?

Apple Cider 600 is an effective formula of three plant extracts, combined to make you slim down in a healthy and natural way. Apple cider vinegar has traditionally been used to stimulate metabolism and balance digestion. Globe artichoke stimulates your bodies detox process and Dandelion is a strong diuretic, which for decades has been used to eliminate retained fluids, stored among the fat cells and soft tissue.

WATER RETENTION MAKES YOU BLOAT!!

Weight loss is not only about losing fat. Water retention also makes you feel overweight and bloated. Your fingers swell, your ankles feel heavy and pants fit tighter. What is the cause? For most of us, we are simply victims of high-sodium processed foods and salty snacks. But women are additionally at risk for water retention, doctors say, because of the rise and fall of hormone levels.

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For information, please visit www.newnordic.ca or call 1-800-261-4223.

Moth tip for clothes
Clothes moths are dark in colour. If you spot them, air all clothing outside, vacuum the base of the wardrobe, scrub down the walls. **KIM ELBO/FOR METRO**

Jump into a one piece

Style File

Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I recently started nursing school and I'm looking for scrubs; where can I go to buy some?

There are several big retail stores that carry healthwear uniforms. Try Sears and Wal-Mart for general and inexpensive scrubs or go to Mark's Work Warehouse for a wide variety in styles and patterns. If you like to keep things fashionable check out Chi Couture Uniforms. They carry comfortable and flattering uniforms that can also be worn outside the hospital. (mychi.ca).

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

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Shop: Mavi
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Tube Romper
Designer: Lav & Kush
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lavand-kush.com

Jumpsuits

When the weather starts getting warmer girls will be jumping into these suits. It's all about the one piece look that designers and buyers have opted for this season. The jumpsuit can look a little too monochromatic so break up the colour with accessories. Pair your rompers with beautiful braided leather belts or long layered necklaces.

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Cover girl
The bosses of herbal health supplement Airborne have offered to hand over $1 million US to charity if Oscar winners take their product up to the podium with them. The company made the offer to those competing for best actor, best actress, and best supporting actor and actress. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

The Associate
Shia LaBeouf is heading to law school — he is to star in a big-screen adaptation of renowned crime author John Grisham's book The Associate.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

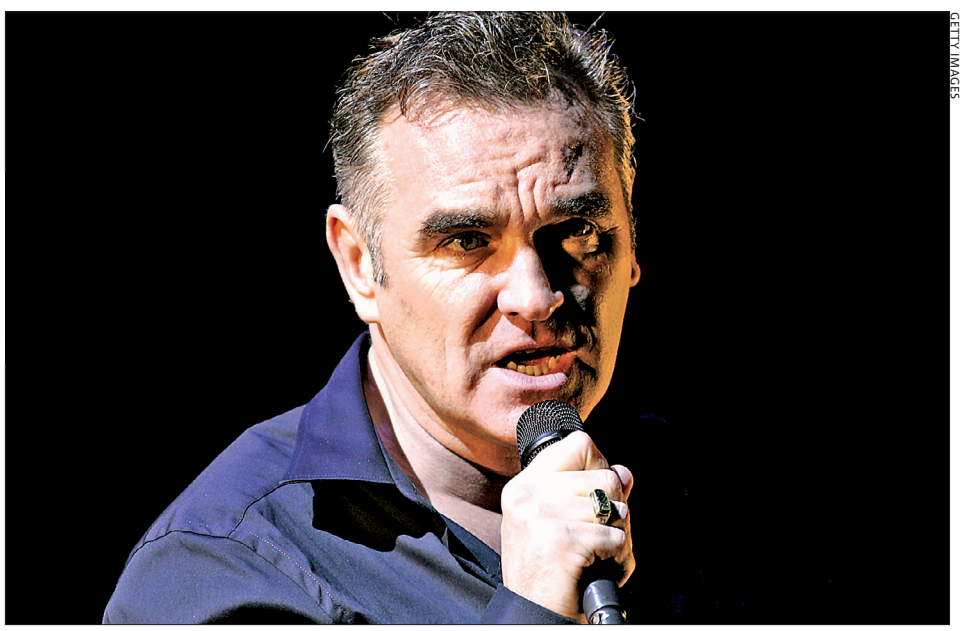
Morrissey's Refusal has edge

Morrissey

Album: Years of Refusal
Label: Polydor/Universal
Rating: ●●●

THERE'S AN over-the-top melodrama to Morrissey's vocal delivery that you either love or hate. But there's plenty on this new CD even Morrissey-haters can appreciate. The former Smiths' frontman has hooked up with an exceptional four-piece crew of garage artists that lends an underlying edge to his hammy emoting. He's even got guitar god Jeff Beck providing some superb cowboy/surf riffs on one track (Black Cloud). That's fortunate, because otherwise we've got a middle-aged man anxious to get off prescription pills (Something is Squeezing My Skull) and crooning about how he can only find love in French architecture (I'm Throwing My Arms Around Paris). Nonetheless, fans will again call this one of his best in years. They'll even like the mariachi horns on When Last I Spoke To Carol.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada



GETTY IMAGES

Years of Refusal — the latest album from Morrissey — was released this week.

Hot **Panda**

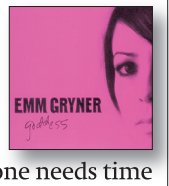
Album: Volcano...Bloody Volcano **Label:** Mint Records
Rating: ●●●

HOT PANDA ARE certainly enthusiastic — picture them as mop-topped 10-year-olds, bouncing on a mini trampoline as they play. The Edmonton-based band and its keyboard-driven, danceable indie-pop combine the tempo switch-ups and vocal styles of groups like the Clips and Clap Your Hands Say Yeah!. They push up the rhythmic elements: Onomatopoeia singing, staccato to percussion, and oompa basslines drive catchy tracks like Holes and Cold Hands/Chapped Lips. But at times some melodies meander into "fun-time freak-outs," and the band comes off like a goofier, less taut Born Ruffians. The thumping breakdowns, punchy vocals and grooves on tracks like Whale-Headed Girl show us the energy; now the boisterous gang just needs to reign it in.

Rob McMahon/for Metro Canada

Emm **Gryner**

Album: Goddess
Label: Dead Daisy/Outside
Rating: ●●●½



WHEN DEALING WITH the dread of a damaged romance during a dreary cold winter, one needs time to be alone to make sense of it all. That's at least the impression left from this Ontario songstress' — and Dead Daisy label owner's — 11th album. Gryner's use of austere piano-based pop noir and stripped-down folk works satisfactorily with all those lyrical images of frozen lakes, skating rinks, the cold weather, burned-out buildings, drawing blood … Vicious stuff here, tempered only by Gryner's soothing soprano. There's a good reason why the likes of Bono, David Bowie and Danny Michel have lauded praises her way.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

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… And You Will Know Us by the **Trail of Dead**

Album: The Century of Self
Label: Justice
Rating: ●●●

AND YOU WILL Know Us By The Trail of Dead are one of those bands you either love or hate. They've amassed a following with their over-the-top epic rock songs, but grandiose guitars and soaring pianos aren't for everyone. Their latest sounds similar to their past releases, but without a major backing them this time around, the group seems freer to expand on their progy noise-rock sound. If you don't mind six minute-plus tunes and a heavy dose of distortion then this will be a great listen (especially Halcyon Days), but it'll be tough to swallow for everyone else.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

more online

• Read our review of Winter Hours by Deep Dark Woods at metronews.ca/music.

Ben **Kweller**

Album: Changing Horses
Label: ATO
Rating: ●●●½

ALTHOUGH TEXAS-BORN Ben Kweller has dabbled in country twang before, this is the rocker's first genuine foray into the world of Americana. And, luckily, he succeeds with flying colours. With pedal steel galore, rich, soothing harmonies and a host of infectious singalong tunes, this might be the guitar slinger's best record. If Kweller's smart, this musical change will be his last.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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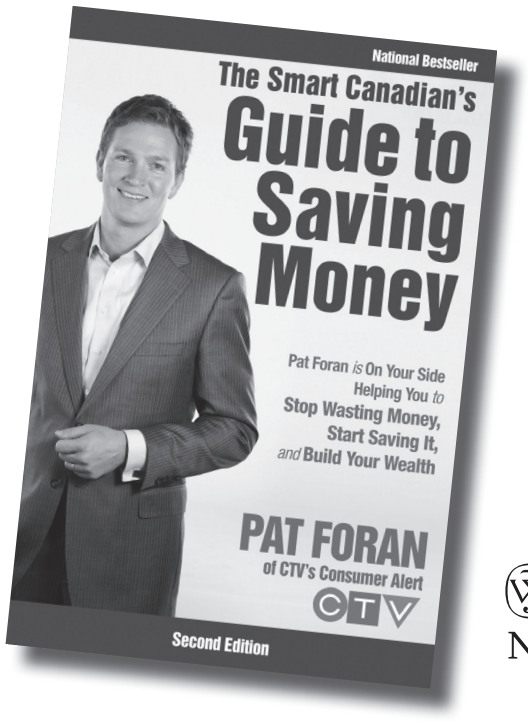

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Roberts' dream party: Night with Obamas

Julia Roberts wouldn't mind getting her three kids together with Malia and Sasha Obama. When asked about her dream dinner party, the Oscar winner said: "For sure, we're going to start with the Obamas. The girls can play with my kids." USMAGAZINE.COM

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From dad to daughter

Ledger's girl will own statuette in case of Oscar win

If Heath Ledger is named best supporting actor at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony, his daughter, three-year-old Matilda Rose Ledger, will become the owner of the Oscar statuette.

But it won't really be hers until her 18th birthday on Oct. 28, 2023 — and even then, only if she signs a contract.

Matilda, daughter of the late Ledger and actress Michelle Williams, has been designated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as the eventual owner of her father's Oscar, should he win for his portrayal of the Joker in The Dark Knight.

The late Heath Ledger is up for an Oscar for playing The Joker in The Dark Knight.

The actor died of an accidental overdose of prescription drugs last year at the age of 28.

But Ledger's nomination, and his daughter's young age, led to one of the trickiest situations the academy has dealt with in its eight decades of awarding posthumous Oscars.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

"It's complicated, because there are two different questions that have to be answered," says Bruce Davis, executive director of the academy. "First, we have to decide who gets the job of accepting the award onstage on the night of the ceremony. And then there's the question of the eventual disposition of the posthumous statuette, which may not stay with the person who accepts it."

In Ledger's case, says Davis, the second question was the hardest to answer.

Academy tradition calls for a posthumous statuette to go to the spouse, or, if there is no living spouse, to the oldest child. Ledger wasn't married, and Matilda is his only child.

Yet because she is only three, Matilda is legally unable to sign the winner's agreement — a contract required of all nominees that says the recipient will not resell his or her Oscar without first offering it back to the academy for $1. The agreement is the academy's way of limiting what might otherwise be a lively secondary market in Oscars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Joe Jonas 'a ladies' man'

Joe Jonas, right, is the biggest flirt of the Jonas Brothers, Kevin Jonas revealed on the CBS' The Early Show Tuesday. "He's a ladies' man," Kevin said while promoting the Bros' new 3-D concert flick, out Feb. 27. "Girls love him!" USMAGAZINE.COM

Back to academy

Many recipients return their Oscars

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences requires all Oscar nominees to sign a contract specifying that they will not sell their statuette without first offering it back to the academy for $1.

The so-called winner's agreement dates back to 1951, at a time when the organization began to worry about orphaned Oscars winding up in the hands of the highest bidder.

So, how many Oscar winners have sold their statuettes to the academy for a buck?

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

None, says AMPAS Executive Director Bruce Davis, although Oscars still make their way back to the academy's custody.

"We have statuettes willed back to us fairly regularly — maybe two per year — from recipients who don't have appropriate heirs, or who just want to be sure that nothing undignified ever befalls their Oscar,'' Davis says.

The academy says it owns almost 100 statuettes that have been returned by winners, heirs, or buyers like Steven Spielberg, who purchased pre-agreement Oscars won by Clark Gable and Bette Davis in order to return them to AMPAS.

Statuettes from the collection occasionally go on display at academy headquarters in Beverly Hills, Calif., and eventually, the organization's long-planned Oscar museum in Hollywood will include space for more of the collection.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fantasy film Babine leads Jutra nods

AWARDS The fantasy film Babine has been nominated in nine categories — the most of any of the nominees — for the 2009 Jutra Awards, which recognizes excellence in Quebec film. Among the other nominees for Babine are Vincent-Guillaume Otis for best actor, Fred Pellerin for best screenplay and Luc Picard, who was also the film's director, for best supporting actor. American Susan Sarandon is among the nominees in the best actress category for her work in Emotional Arithmetic. The Jutras will be handed out March 29.

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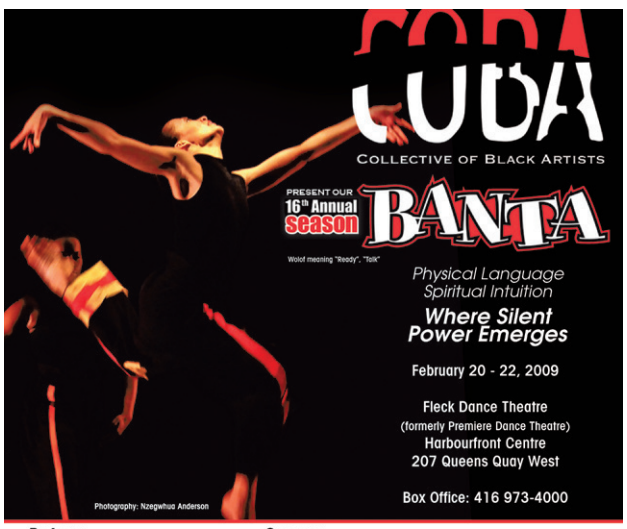

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Kink around country

Popular TV show connects with hairdressers

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Da Kink in My Hair is taking the salon on the road. The stars of the popular Global TV show, set in a Jamaican-run hairdressers in Toronto, are bringing the "Kink Cam" to visit real-life hairdressers across the country.

"We're here to connect with our fans. We're going into barber shops, hairdressing salons, schools," Trey Anthony said yesterday. The England-born comedian and actor wrote Da Kink in My Hair as a play before it was turned into a TV show on Global.

"Everyone's been really excited to see us," she said. The show, which examines "black womyn's issues," has struck a chord with viewers, she said.

Ordena Stephens stars as Novelette (Letty) Campbell, the Caribbean-Canadian owner of the hair salon. Anthony plays her sister Joy.

Halifax native Eli Goree plays a 19-year-old sent to work for a salon in the second season of Da Kink in My Hair.

Da Kink had a local guide for the Halifax stop of the tour. Newcomer Eli Goree plays Malik, a 19-year-old sent to work in the salon to keep busy — and out of trouble. Goree, who hosted the CBC show Street Cents and has appeared on Sesame Street, was having a blast introducing his new friends from Toronto to his old friends in Halifax.

"It's good to be home. We're going around seeing my family and friends," the Halifax native said. He made sure they brought the Kink Cam to his own barber, Derek, at First Cousins. "He's been cutting my hair for years," laughed Goree.

"It's great being on the show and seeing so many different aspects of the Toronto culture, and then to come back here and see how receptive people are to the show."

After a successful first year, Global renewed Da Kink for a second season, which started on Feb. 12. Da Kink airs Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. ET.

"We're going into barber shops, hairdressing salons, schools."
Trey Anthony, creator

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/19/09	265	353	2	TVO	e2	e2	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Blackpool		Masterworks "Helvetica" (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		The Office	Kink in Hair	Life "I Heart Mom" (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Hell's Kitchen (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*Blind Trust* (2007, Suspense) Jessica Capshaw.				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Nouv. mondes	*Le Jour se lève* ★★★ (1939, Drame)			Y'a pas d'âge	Volt
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	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Identity"		Supernatural (HDTV)		Bow Wow the Dog is Back		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office	30 Rock	ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap		Eleventh Hour (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Hell's Kitchen (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Doc Martin		Voyages of Discovery		MI-5 Arms dealing.		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Identity"		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	The Obama Visit (N)			CBC News: The National		Dreams of Obama		National
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	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show "Closing Night" (HDTV)						SportsCentre	
	411	457	58	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman Costa Rica.		Mantracker		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks -- All Out		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Zixx Level	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*X-Men* ★★★ (2000, Action) Hugh Jackman.			
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	House	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		America's Best Dance Crew		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Springbreak.08
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "Hothead" (N)		The Beast
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Segreto del Successo (Italian).				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In...Love	Spice Girls-Giving		Fabulous Life Of...		RuPaul's Drag Race		Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	Our Song	Flashback	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	*Silent Hill* ★★ (2006, Horror), Sean Bean		
	620	523	40	BVO	Camera	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Glenn Gould: Hereafter* (2005, Documentary)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "High Seas"		Lost Worlds		Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "High Seas"		Ancestors
cable variety	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Gong Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*I Know What You Did Last Summer* ★		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Waist Deep* ★ (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.				The Game	The Game	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Chuck (HDTV)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	Making the Band 4 (N)		The Girls of Hedsor Hall		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*The Cutting Edge* ★★ (1992, Romance-Comedy)				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	etalk Winners	etalk	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Histoires-filles	Star Académie:	La Classe de 5e (N) (SC)		Taxi 0-22 (SC)	Caméra café	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted		Most Haunted		*Passion*	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*Michael Clayton* ★★★ (2007, Drama) George Clooney.				*Mister Lonely* ★★ (2007, Comedy-Drama) Diego Luna.				*Who Killed Me*
	305	612	306	PIX	*The Frisco Kid* ★★ (1979, Western) Gene Wilder.				*Crocodile Dundee* ★★★ (1986, Comedy)			(10:45) *Crocodile Dundee II*	

critics' corner

ER
It's Valentine's Day in the ER, and Neela (Parminder Nagra) seems to be under the spell of Dr. Brenner (David Lyons). Gates (John Stamos) treats a bizarre mushroom hunter who comes in on his wedding day with breathing problems, and Banfield (Angela Bassett) is determined to have a baby despite her husband's (Courtney B. Vance) misgivings. And Dr. Carter (guest star Noah Wyle) makes a surprise visit to the ER. 10 PM on CTV NBC

Masterworks
What's so interesting about a typeface? A lot, according to "Helvetica," a documentary about the sleek, simple font that was created in 1957 and has become ubiquitous. The film traces the history of Helvetica and collects input from graphic designers, social scientists and others on the reasons for its popularity. Some like it, while others think it's a reflection of modern society's desire for simplicity and predictability. 10 PM on TVO

Author not sorry for Holocaust yarn

BOOK The author of a discredited Holocaust memoir is not apologizing. Herman Rosenblat, who has acknowledged inventing his story of meeting his wife on opposite sides of a concentration camp fence, told Good Morning America that he has no regrets and would tell the story again.

Connick Jr. off to Mardi Gras

PEOPLE Harry Connick Jr. is going home for Mardi Gras. The New Orleans native and co-founder of the Krewe of Orpheus is returning home to celebrate Carnival with his family and friends. Connick has been busy promoting New in Town, the romantic comedy starring Connick and Renee Zellweger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GlobalStyle
Kenya Hunt
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Front-row fan
Justin Timberlake was in New York this week to debut his new collection for William Rast and had his biggest fan, girlfriend Jessica Biel, in the front row. "I'm excited to see the show," Jessica said as she hurried inside, intouchweekly reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Eva claims to be 'pretty frugal'

IMAGE The ever glam Eva Longoria has revealed she's pretty frugal in real life, unlike her Desperate Housewives character, Gabrielle, femalefirst.co.uk reports. At the Matthew Williamson fashion show this week, she commented: "I've always been pretty frugal about everything I wear on the red carpet. I return it all the next day." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jen and Jolie may cross paths at last

SHOWDOWN It looks like Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston may finally come face to face Saturday at the Night Before the Oscars party in Beverly Hills. And according to OK magazine, Aniston is ready for the showdown. "She has always known that this moment would happen and she's never been more ready." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Octuplets' mom denies being obsessed with Jolie

LOOKALIKES Facing public outrage over revelations that she supports her family with the help of food stamps and claims that she is fixated with Angelina Jolie, Nadya Suleman tells People magazine that she's turning to "a greater strength" to cope with her sudden notoriety. People.com quotes the California mother of octuplets as saying that she hopes the media frenzy will soon die out and allow her to focus on raising her eight new babies, born Jan. 26, along with her six older children.

"Next week it will be okay," she told the magazine while peering outside at a group of reporters camped in front of her Whittier, Calif., home. "No one will be out there, I'm hoping." Suleman also rejected claims that she is obsessed with Jolie.

"All lies. I have no interest in her. None," she says. "I've never been a fan of anybody famous. Now I kinda have a taste. But it's not being famous — it's being infamous. It's a nightmare."

Jolie's rep said reports that the actress received letters from Suleman are untrue. METRO NEWS SERVICES

PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

Taraji takes Brad home to meet her pals

CO-WORKERS Taraji P. Henson was so starstruck by her The Curious Case of Benjamin Button co-star Brad Pitt she invited him home to meet all her friends, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress was surprised to learn the Hollywood megastar is "just a regular guy." Henson tells USA Today newspaper, "Three of my very best girlfriends flew into town and wanted to meet Brad Pitt.

"So I was like, 'Brad, come over. My girlfriends are going crazy over you.' He comes over, and he's so cool. He has a way of being very warm and making people feel welcome." METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

SJP wants the next Sex and the City film to be a 'romp'

REUNIONS Sarah Jessica Parker says the next Sex and the City movie will be a "romp," femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress, who is set to reprise her role as sex columnist Carrie Bradshaw, wants the script to be packed with steamy scenes and funny storylines. The 43-year-old actress admits the movie will have to be sensitive to the growing global financial crisis She said: "I think we want this one to be a romp. The last one, we got to tell a really mature sophisticated story that had real heartbreak in it, and this time, I think we want a romp. We want our audience to have a massive romp." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Von Teese says she'll never put a man before her career

WORK Dita Von Teese has vowed never to quit her raunchy stage act for a man — insisting she would rather give up on the relationship than her career, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The sultry striptease artist split from rocker husband Marilyn Manson in 2006 and is now back on the dating scene. And Von Teese admits previous lovers have let her down because they want her to sacrifice her job for the romance. She says, "To begin with, they all say how great (my career) is. But when it comes down to it, they want their careers to be more important than mine. I've had many a man ask me to quit so I can support him and be there for him all the time." METRO NEWS SERVICES

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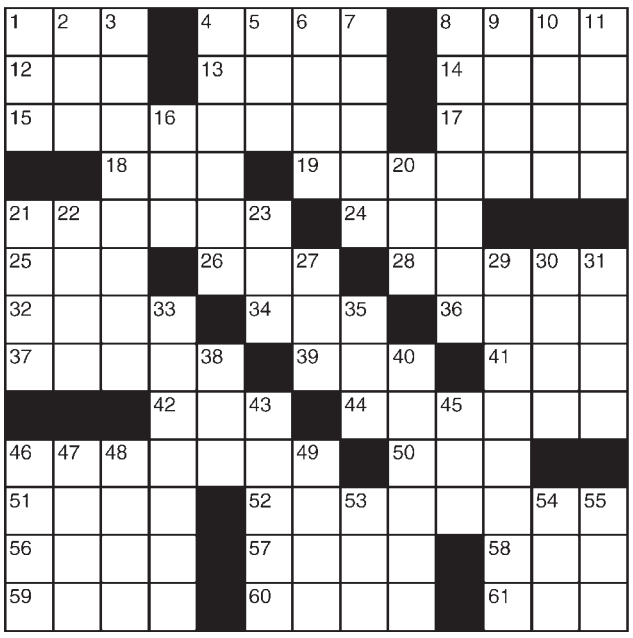

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2		4	6				3	
				5				
				9	3			8
4		9			7	2		
1		8				7		4
		7	3			9		1
6			9	4				
				7				
	5				1	4		6

Crossword across

1 Ain't no more
4 Hand warmer
8 Supermarket supply
12 Request
13 Taj Mahal city
14 Send forth
15 Easy field goal
17 Competent
18 Sajak or Summerall
19 Middle kid, in a sitcom
21 Pen VIP
24 Author Buscaglia
25 "I" strain?
26 Wish otherwise
28 Further down the page
32 99 of the 101 Dalmatians
34 Playground game
36 Rebuff a masher
37 Choppers
39 Aries
41 Lemieux milieu
42 Have 44-Across
44 Evening meal
46 Big con
50 — de deux
51 PBS science show
52 Hidden trigger
56 Hebrew month
57 Green land
58 Margery of rhyme
59 Money
60 Encounter
61 CBS logo

Crossword down

1 Servicewoman
2 Blond shade
3 Do some pre-bout exercise
4 Get down
5 "Blecch!"
6 Gift-tag word
7 Deadly
8 Signal lights
9 Early pulpit
10 Underwater breathing apparatus?
11 Goblet part
16 Cushion
20 Mainlander's memento
21 Sobbed
22 Malaria symptom
23 Enthusiast
27 Corn spike
29 Opposite result
30 "The Amazing —"
31 Unoriginal one
33 The Daily Show host
35 Petrol
38 Meccan pilgrimage
40 Snuffleupagus, e.g.
43 Tribe emblem
45 Manhandle
46 Hosiery woe
47 Protuberance
48 Elliptical
49 Soft cheese
53 Rage
54 Comedian Romano
55 Flock member

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	3	9	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	4	5	1	3	9	7	2
5	1	2	6	7	9	8	3	4
4	7	8	3	9	1	2	6	5
1	9	6	7	2	5	4	8	3
2	5	3	8	4	6	1	9	7
9	8	1	2	5	7	3	4	6
3	4	5	1	6	8	7	2	9
6	2	7	9	3	4	5	1	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Braised Beef with Garlic and Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup (125 ml) dried porcini mushrooms (1/2 ounce)
1 cup (250 ml) hot water
1 cup (250 ml) canned crushed tomatoes
1 cup (250 ml) dry red wine or chicken broth
2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste
3 carrots, cut into matchsticks
2 celery stalks, cut into matchsticks
4 garlic cloves, slivered
4 tsp (20 ml)brown sugar
3/4 teaspoon oregano
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
1 lb (500 g) well-trimmed boneless beef eye round roast

METHOD:
1. Combine mushrooms and hot water in small bowl. Let stand 20 minutes until softened. With fingers, scoop mushrooms out of liquid. Strain mushroom soaking liquid through fine-meshed sieve and set aside. Coarsely chop mushrooms.
2. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Combine mushrooms, mushroom soaking liquid, tomatoes, wine, tomato paste, carrots, celery, garlic, brown sugar, oregano, salt, and black pepper in Dutch oven or flameproof casserole. Bring to a boil over medium heat.
3. Add meat to pan and return to a boil. Cover, place in oven, and bake until meat is tender, about 1-1/2 hours.
4. Slice meat and serve with vegetables and sauce. (Recipe can be made ahead. Add sliced meat to pan of sauce and vegetables and refrigerate. Reheat in 250 F/120 C oven).

SERVES 4

rd.ca
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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your energy inspires others to get out of a rut. You'll pull off any last-minute plans with ease. You have the courage to speak the truth.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your conscience is tugged after witnessing an injustice. Sometimes you just can't help other people. The best policy is to let sleeping dogs lie.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone tells you something you want to know. A trustworthy person discovers a personal weakness. Regrets will cause a friend to confess.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Discuss an agreement with a stable friend. Self-hypnosis will work for you. An optimistic woman wants you to change your habits.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Tension crops up when someone is caught lying. Someone will bring out your wild side. Prepare to coach a besieged person through a crisis.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll get support for a planned venture. A quiet approach enhances your hard work. Someone's integrity is at stake in a wild love affair.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll get more happiness from telling the truth. A wicked woman has something to say about damages. Your passions must be controlled for now.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't let other people's fears scare you into making a mistake. You'll have to defend a reliable friend. Mind your manners and don't be bitter.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You don't expect to be told what to do. Your talents lead you to better things. Pay attention to any doubts about a tempting fantasy.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your affection causes weird reactions. Ridiculous outrage will break out over a lost item. Strengthen others by sharing your deep thoughts.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
An ally denies revealing his character flaws. Your brilliant ideas push the power of invention to new heights. A social event seems to be silly.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Be a minimalist with your plans. A fierce person insists on deadlines being met. You must spend time with someone if you want to bond.

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Limited model shown

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GL 5-speed model shown

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